FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-145
Thursday
28 July 1994

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel, Jordan, Palestinians Sign Water Agreement

JN2707181394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1415 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] The Israeli, Jordanian, and Palestinian delegations signed a document on water sharing between the three parties in Oslo today. The signing of this document came after a round of secret talks held in Oslo.

Palestinians, Israelis Resume Talks

NC2807094794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0904 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian and Israeli negotiators this morning resumed talks on the early transfer of authority in the West Bank to the Palestinian administration.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], led the Palestinian side. The Israeli side was led by General Danny Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the occupied territories.

PNA Health Minister Dr. Riyad al-Za'nun, who is a delegation member, said the Palestinian and Israeli sides have finished a draft on education, health, and budget affairs to be forwarded to the two sides' leaders to revise before it is endorsed in the next round to be held next week.

Al-Za'nun said the next round will deal with the early transfer of power in tourism and social affairs and he expressed the hope that an agreement would be signed on these five issues next week. He said there are no major problems on health but that most of the problems are technical and noted that Israel consents to training Palestinian doctors and does not object to continuing training in Egypt or elsewhere.

Clinton-Sponsored Meeting of Rabin, al-Asad Raised

TA2807060594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] A new Israeli proposal in the negotiations with Syria: A senior Israeli official proposed that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak arrange a meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and President Hafiz al-Asad under the auspices of President Bill Clinton and with the participation of the leaders of the Arab countries. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir brings us the details of the new Israeli proposal:

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak heard from his Israeli interlocutor about the contacts with the Jordanian king and was very pleased. Toward the end of their meeting, he asked: What do we do about the Syrians? The Israeli replied: There is only one way, and that is direct diplomacy. Only a meeting between Rabin and al-Asad will yield results, as did Rabin's meetings with 'Arafat and Husayn.

At this point the Israeli proposed what would seem to be a brilliant idea: A meeting between Rabin and al-Asad under the auspices of President Clinton, perhaps under the joint auspices of Clinton and Yeltsin, and with the participation of the leaders of the Arab countries, such as Mubarak, King Husayn, the kings of Morocco and Saudi Arabia, the Persian Gulf amirs, Yasir 'Arafat, the presidents of Tunis, Algeria, Indonesia, and others. Such a meeting would meet al-Asad's demand for a comprehensive peace, since he would be backed by the leaders of the Arab countries.

Mubarak reportedly listened to the proposal and was enthusiastic. A few days later Mubarak brought up the proposal in a meeting with his Syrian counterpart. The Syrian president's response remains unknown at the moment. He may have argued, just like several senior Israeli officials who heard of the proposal, that it is a nice but unrealistic idea. Incidentally, it is not known whether Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin knew of the proposal before it was raised with al-Asad. He probably did not, seeing that, according to his political outlook, a Washington conference, just like the Madrid conference, would only damage the chances of practical negotiations with each of the partners. Also, he may have other ideas on how to advance the negotiations with Syria.

Senior sources in Jerusalem say that the issue came up in Rabin's meeting with President Clinton and King Husayn. The same sources note that not long after he returns home, Husayn will leave for Cairo and Damascus to brief the presidents of Egypt and Syria about the Washington summit and his talks with Rabin and Clinton, and will most probably relay new proposals to them. Warren Christopher is due back in our area in 20 days for another round of talks which will focus on Syria. The Syrians have been hinting at their willingness to resume the direct talks.

Having said that, Jordan and Syria are not the ultimate goal. Recently, contacts have been made through the Americans with other Arab countries, such as Saudi Arabia and Algeria. The latest proposal is to build these relations based on the Jordanian model: Joint economic projects as a first stage, preceding de facto recognition.

In this context, analysts in Jerusalem say that the internal struggles in the Arab world over control of the Muslim shrines in Jerusalem, which have already been mentioned by Prime Minister Rabin, will help forge the contacts with other Arab governments. War, including war for peace, is won by stealth, Rabin has said, paraphrasing the Biblical proverb.

Israel Offers Jordan Military Communication System

TA2707184294 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Jul 94 p 8

[Report from Washington by Hayim Shibi]

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[Excerpt] Israel and Jordan will establish a direct communication system between the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Jordanian Army. This will openly institutionalize previously held contacts, held directly or with the UN mediation. This issue was discussed by the joint military committee and was further reinforced by the Rabin-Husayn meeting in Washington.

Israel has presented Jordan with a document offering detailed security cooperation. The paper discusses cooperation on police, borders, fighting terrorism, ongoing security, and communication issues. The Jordanians are expected to present their detailed reply during the discussions.

Israeli sources in Washington estimated that, despite the expected security cooperation, Israel will oppose the transfer of advanced F-16's to Jordan at this stage, before a comprehensive peace contract has been signed. At the same time, it is possible that the past two days in Washington may change this attitude. [passage omitted]

Israel Proposes Egypt Model for Syrian Track

TA2807103094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jul 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpts] Israel is prepared to work toward a peace arrangement with Syria on the basis of the peace agreement with Egypt, all aspects included. This has been stated by senior political sources.

According to the sources, "the Egyptian model" is now at the center of the negotiations conducted by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad through U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The sources further said that Israel has not given Syria an explicit pledge to attain an arrangement on the basis of the Egyptian model, although Rabin relayed messages to al-Asad via Christopher from which the Syrian leader was able to construe the Israeli intentions. The sources noted that Rabin has recently said in public: "If al-Asad wants to get the same deal al-Sadat got, he should give what al-Sadat gave." [passage omitted]

The sources said that al-Asad is unprepared to subscribe to the Egyptian precedent, and he is demanding "the Egyptian model plus." According to them, the three main points of controversy obstructing the negotiations are:

—Israel is ready to withdraw to the international border, while Syria demands a withdrawal to the lines of 4 June 1967 that will give Syria crucial areas, such as Hamat Gader, the northeastern shore of the Sea of Galilee, and the Baniyas Falls area.
—Syria is demanding commensurate security arrangements on both sides of the border, while Israel wants the security arrangements to be proportionate to the two countries' size, as was the case with Egypt.
—Syria objects to the Israeli demand to launch normalization straight after the first phase of withdrawal, in which no settlements are to be evacuated, and is demanding gradual normalization. [passage omitted]

Some of the political sources were concerned that even after the principles of the arrangement are worked out, the negotiations with Syria would be seriously impaired by al-Asad's insistence on minor details, such as Sea of Galilee fishing rights and the specifics of security arrangements.

Israel is now demanding that Syria follow in Egypt's footsteps by launching the negotiations with public steps that will bear witness to its desire for peace. The political sources recalled that during the negotiations with Egypt, Israel used the secret track to announce its readiness to withdraw, while for outward appearances, the Egyptians were the first to announce their desire for peace, thus achieving a psychological breakthrough that made the agreement possible.

During Christopher's most recent round of talks, Rabin made a series of proposals for public diplomacy moves to be taken step by step. A Rabin-al-Asad meeting is not on the agenda at this time. The political sources said the public steps are designed also to persuade the American public to open up to Syria, and these Israeli demands have the U.S. Administration's support.

[A related 200-word report by Hemi Shalev and Shefi Gabay on pages 1 and 2 of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 28 July, adds: "Syria has recently signaled its willingness to launch a secret track of talks with Israel, along with the official negotiations waged in Washington. This was announced by political elements in Jerusalem last night.

"The elements said that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will examine the new Syrian willingness during his upcoming trip to the region. Israel perceives this willingness as an intimation of the Syrians' desire to promote the peace talks in the near future."]

Syria will apparently soon permit Israeli reporters with dual citizenship to visit and report from its territory. David Makovsky, the JERUSALEM POST political correspondent, last week visited Syria with Christopher's entourage. The visit of Makovsky, who has a U.S. passport and also writes for a U.S. newspaper, was personally approved by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in the wake of the U.S. secretary of state's intervention.

Israeli sources said the Americans were under the impression that the Syrians were interested in renewing the direct peace talks in Washington.

Speaking with reporters aboard his plane yesterday, the prime minister said that the secretary of state will return for another Israel-Syria shuttle tour in August. [passage omitted]

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Rabin said he asked that Christopher's trip be postponed. "It would have been better to put it off, but the Americans wanted to go on," he said. He added that "al-Asad cannot afford to appear to be following in Husayn's footsteps, and for that reason, time out would be desirable."

According to Rabin, "Clinton keeps in touch with al-Asad from time to time by telephone. I asked whether al-Asad is ready to continue the moves now, even if there are no immediate results. The answer was categorical: Yes. We have to be patient. There will be cracks that may open up some more in the future. I don't know when."

Rabin said the United States stopped the bilateral negotiations it had conducted with Syria with the aim of improving the relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 28 July, in a 600-word report by Dan Avidan on page 2, also writes about Rabin's conversation with reporters during his flight back from Washington: "In reply to a question about the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, Rabin said that the Iraqi affair proved the treaty was ineffectual, and that Israel had proposed to reach bilateral agreements with the Arabs on cleansing the Middle East of nuclear weapons."]

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Calls For Emergency Arab League Meeting

JN2807110194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] The PLO has called for an emergency meeting of the Arab League Council, at the level of the permanent delegates, to discuss the issue of Jerusalem in light of Monday's Washington Declaration ending the state of war between Jordan and Israel. This was announced in a statement by Muhammad Subayh, Palestine permanent delegate to the Arab League, who pointed out that he called for this meeting to preclude any misunderstanding that might affect the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the status of Jerusalem.

Confirmation on Jerusalem Sought

JN2807105394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, has said that the PLO will ask the Arab League to confirm the PLO's exclusive right to negotiate on Jerusalem.

PNA Criticizes Jordanian-Israeli Agreement

LD2707183894 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] The Palestinian National Authority [PNA] held an emergency meeting in Gaza early yesterday morning, Tuesday, to examine its reaction to the Jordanian-Israeli agreement.

The PNA has construed the Israeli decision, i.e. to keep Jordan as the caretaker of the Islamic holy places of Jerusalem, as a flagrant violation of the agreement that was signed last September.

On the other hand, the PLO Executive Committee considers the Washington Declaration as plan for subjugation and oppression aimed at plundering the resources of the nation.

The source added, in a statement that was issued following the emergency meeting, that such a declaration will not end the struggle against Israel.

An official Palestinian information source said the following: We welcome the progress achieved on the Jordanian-Israeli track and we hope that it will be achieved on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, so as to reach a comprehensive and just solution to the whole region. However, the national, pan-Arab, and religious duty requires us to stop at the paragraph concerning Jerusalem, as our stance toward this paragraph is the following:

First, the Israeli Government has no right to give any role or promise about Jerusalem, because Israel is a state of occupation that has no right of disposal, in accordance with the resolutions of international legality and international law.

Second, this Israeli behavior constitutes a clear violation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, because it was agreed that the final state of the city of Jerusalem and its sanctities will be discussed in the final stage of the Palestinian-Israeli track with the Palestinian side. This behavior defines in advance the fate of Holy Jerusalem and confines it only to a role in the Islamic holy places, and disregards the issue of Jerusalem as a political Palestinian, Arab, Christian, and Islamic issue, and as an issue of a city and its sanctities that are under occupation. This constitutes a clear violation of the UN Security Council resolutions and the UN, as well as the resolutions of the Arab League and the Islamic, African and nonaligned countries' summits. The most recent of these international resolutions is UN Security Council Resolution 904 that was issued last May after the Hebron mosque massacre. This resolution focuses on Jerusalem as a part of the occupied Palestinian territories.

We call on the Arab and Islamic states, the international community, and particularly fraternal Jordan for the need to be vigilant because the issue of Jerusalem is delicate from all its aspects and its inclusion in the declaration was a surprise to all.

Hamas Statement Denounces Washington Declaration

JN2807113494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] In a statement distributed in Gaza yesterday, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] denounced the Washington Declaration between Jordan and Israel.

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The movement's statement added that Jordan's new stand, embodied by the Washington Declaration, constitutes a disavowal of past Jordanian stands.

APF Calls Washington Declaration 'Odious Crime'

JN2707193994 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] The Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF] has issued the following statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: The APF has held an extraordinary session to ponder the grave steps taken by the Jordanian regime to oblige the Americans and Zionists, as seen in the declaration of principles, the meetings held in Wadi al-'Arabah and the Dead Sea Hotel, and the Washington Declaration signed by King Husayn and Yitzhaq Rabin, which ended the state of war and the economic boycott, put a seal on normalization between the two sides, and spelled out their position on Jerusalem.

The APF strongly condemns the steps the Jordanian regime has taken, and underscores the following:

First, The Washington Declaration amounts to a dangerous attack on the Palestinian cause, homeland, and people, besides affording cover for the liquidatory Gaza-Jericho agreement and lending legitimacy to the Zionist theft of Palestine. The pretext advanced by the Jordanian regime that the influential handful [of Palestinians] who betrayed Palestine and the Arab nation and signed an agreement with the Zionist enemy does not exonerate the Jordanian regime from this odious crime [10-second break in transmission] the Palestinian people nor reflect their will, and are not authorized to speak in their behalf.

The Palestinian people have expressed their adherence to their homeland and their unity and national identity and their determination to keep up the struggle and jihad and to pursue engagement of the invading enemies. Their glorious intifadah is continuing throughout the occupied territory, including the self-rule areas.

Second, the Washington Declaration will have dire consequences in terms of Jordan's entity, foundations, and existence. This capitulation on the part of the Jordanian regime will increase Jordan's dependence on the enemy camp and cost it its sovereignty and independence. It is a hollow argument to contend that the move will advance the interests of Jordan and Jordanians, resolve its economic crisis, and insulate it from dangers. The result will be to deepen Jordan's economic and social crisis; witness what happened in al-Sadat's Egypt. Furthermore, the American-Zionist enemy will seek to stoke reprehensible regional sensitivities in order to fragment the Arabs.

Third, the Jordanian regime's accommodation of the American-Zionist project and its attendant subjugation of Arabs will open the door wide for the Zionist enemy to carry on with its expansionist plan, within the framework of its role as a pillar of the new Middle East order.

With this agreement, Jordan will be a bridge for the Zionist entity to cross to the Arab heartland to fulfill all its objectives. Thus, what the Jordanian regime has embarked on poses a threat to our Arab nation's supreme interests.

The APF strongly condemns the Jordanian regime's step and tells our struggling Palestinian and Jordanian peoples, as well as our Arab and Islamic nation the following:

First, the declaration ending the state of war will not terminate the conflict, because it is one of existence rather than a dispute over borders. The struggle and jihad by the Palestinian people will endure until liberation and until they regain their rights to repatriation, self-determination, and full national independence.

Second, for Jordan to agree to the Zionist enemy's acknowledgement of its historical role in the holy places and reducing Jerusalem to a mere place of worship is an acquiescence to the holy city's theft. Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine; Palestine is the cause of the Arabs and Muslims. No single individual or regime or ruler has the right to dispose of or concede it.

The APF sends its warm greetings to our masses in Jordan and to the political parties and forces and associations that have aired their rejection and anger and condemnation of these moves by the Jordanian regime. The APF urges increased cohesion and closure of ranks and a pooling of the energies of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples and those of the Arab and Islamic nation to counter and thwart this conspiratorial project.

Long live our heroic Jordanian people; long live Palestine as a free and Arab land; glory to our Arab and Islamic nation.

PPSF, Communists Reject Washington Declaration

JN2707182094 (Clandestine) Al Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] A spokesman for the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF] has made a statement on the Washington Declaration. It says: The Washington Declaration signed by Jordan and the Zionist entity is a new Zionist penetration. It implies the relinquishment of national and pan-Arab rights. It is another step within the framework of unilateral deals, like the Oslo and Cairo agreements between 'Arafat and terrorist Rabin. It severely damages national and pan-Arab rights and gives the Zionist entity the right to dominate the nation's political and economic potentials and wealth.

The Palestinian Revolutionary Communist Party has also issued a press statement on the Washington Declaration. It stressed that the meeting between King Husayn and Zionist Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is a serious

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event in terms of its contents and its results, including a declaration of the end of the state of war between Jordan and the Zionist entity and the normalization of relations between the two sides.

The statement adds: This capitulatory step, which represents the collapse of another Arab regime, should promote the factors of steadfastness and resistance in the Arab nation to confront American-Zionist designs for hegemony and dominance.

Daily Views Washington Declaration, Jerusalem

TA2707175194 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
26 Jul 94 p 13

[Editorial: "The Washington Declaration"]

[Excerpts] Undoubtedly, the Washington Declaration signed yesterday by Jordan's King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, in the first public summit between them under the auspices and participation of U.S. President Bill Clinton, constitutes a new development that places the Arab-Israeli peace process before a new stage.

This important development in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict will definitely have an effect on the peace process. Its importance stems not only from the ceremonies held in the U.S. capital or from the meaning inherent in the first public meeting between the Jordanian monarch and the Israeli prime minister, but also from the reality of the fundamental positions defined in this declaration. Foremost of these is the official proclamation on ending the state of war and the announcement of a series of normalization steps between the two parties, such as opening new crossing points, linking the telephone and electricity networks, cooperating against crime, and other steps and economic projects under discussion by the two sides. [passage omitted]

If the Jerusalem issue was raised one way or another at the Washington meeting, it is worth reminding that the issue of Arab Jerusalem is not merely one of religious ceremonies or holy sites only, but also political and geographic as Jerusalem is part of the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, something stipulated by the resolutions of international legitimacy. Naturally, while the Palestinian side welcomes the visit of any Arab or Muslim leader to Arab Jerusalem and the holy sites after they are returned to Palestinian sovereignty, Israel does not have the legal or moral right either to extend invitations for visiting occupied Arab Jerusalem or talk about solving the Jerusalem issue far from the Palestinian problem's framework despite the Arab and Islamic bonds with this issue. Furthermore, Israel does not have the right to separate the issue of holy sites from the overall issue of Jerusalem.

In sum, if the new development on the Jordanian-Israeli track has become a reality within the framework of the peace process, we hope that the concept of a just and comprehensive peace will also be translated into reality. Moreover, we hope that this development will lead to promoting the achievement of this goal on the basis of international resolutions and respect for the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right in and over Arab Jerusalem, and put an end to the Israeli occupation of all occupied Arab Palestinian territories so that it will be possible to actually end the conflict and launch a new era of peace, security, and stability in this part of the world.

Daily Warns of Israeli 'Maneuvers' on Jerusalem

TA2707185694 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
27 Jul 94 pp 3, 7

[Editorial: "Beware of Dissension!"]

[Excerpts] If the Palestinian people have blessed the Jordanian-Israeli agreement and the summit meeting in Washington between Husayn, Clinton, and Rabin, we hope that this agreement will promote the peace process on the other tracks and lead to a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region.

The talk today, however, is about Israel's attempt to drive a wedge between Jordan and the PLO over the future of Jerusalem. In his statement Rabin said that Jordan in the past has and will have in the future a major role in the affairs of the holy sites in Jerusalem. He adds that when negotiations for reaching a final settlement over Jerusalem begin, Jordan will be an important partner in this settlement. This Israeli position does not imply acceptance and recognition of the Arabs' and Muslims' rights in and sovereignty over any part of Jerusalem, but is an attempt to create a rift between the Palestinians and the Jordanians and open a loophole in relations between the brothers in the two countries.

Rabin went even further than this when he said: Let the Palestinians, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Morocco hoist their flags over the al-Aqsa Mosque and let them quarrel, Jerusalem will remain Israel's united and eternal capital. Thus, Rabin is not concealing his aims and intentions. Are we Palestinians, Jordanians, Arabs, and Muslims conscious of what Israel and its leaders are contemplating? All of us have the responsibility of proving to Israel that there is no rivalry among us over Jerusalem and that the common Arab and Islamic goal is to exert every effort to liberate the holy city. [passage omitted]

When the agreement between the Palestinians and Israel was reached in Oslo, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres sent a letter of assurances to President 'Arafat about the future of Jerusalem. Today, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin declares that Jordan has a special role in deciding the future of Jerusalem and in the custody of its holy sites. Whom should we believe: Peres or Rabin? Or is the objective only to sow discord between us and, in fact, there is no sincere Israeli intention to settle the issue of Jerusalem but to throw sand in the eyes? Israel must realize that these maneuvers will be of no benefit and that we are well aware of Israel's aspirations and goals. [passage omitted]

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Hamas Denies Role in London, Other Explosions

JN2707180594 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], has denied the movement has any connection with the operations that took place in Britain and elsewhere.

In a statement today, Ibrahim Ghawshah said the Hamas movement is carrying out its operations against the Zionist enemy inside the occupied homeland, and that attempts by the Zionist enemy to fabricate and exploit such accusations in order to harm the Hamas movement are obvious.

It is not part of Hamas' policy, Ghawshah said, to carry out operations outside the usurped homeland. He said Hamas will continue the policy of confining its operations to the homeland.

'Urayqat Announces Elections in Territories 15 Dec

TA2707163394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Palestinian Authority member Sa'ib 'Urayqat says Palestinian elections will be held on the 15th of December. 'Urayqat said the elections have been delayed due to the redeployment of the Israeli Army in the territories.

Hamas Not To Participate

TA2807084594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader in the Gaza Strip, claims that Israel still controls the Gaza Strip. He said that Hamas members will not participate in the elections to the Palestinian Authority slated for 15 December. Speaking to our correspondent Moti Amir, al-Zahhar said he can make good on the offer to disclose the location where MIA Ilan Sa'adon is buried if an agreement to this effect is attained.

[Begin recording] [Amir] Al-Zahhar said that even after the implementation of the autonomy agreement Israel still controls the Gaza Strip. That is why Hamas was from the beginning opposed to such a solution to the Palestinian problem, he said.

[Al-Zahhar, in English] After the implementation of autonomy, you can understand, this is just a justification of the occupation now. The Israelis are still the occupying forces in 40 percent of the Gazan area. They are controlling the crossing sites, they are controlling our economy. We have no chance to choose our representatives according to our program. Israel is controlling everything.

[Amir translates the above and continues] Incidentally, Dr. al-Zahhar presented his own peace plan to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and to then Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin back in 1988. According to his four-phase plan, Israel must withdraw from the territories, including Jerusalem, and hand over control to a third country mutually acceptable to both sides so that the Palestinians may be able to elect their representatives democratically and decide whether they want to coexist with Israel or adhere to the ideology of Hamas, whereby the state of Palestine must stretch from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea.

Al-Zahhar emphasized last night that Hamas members will not participate in the elections slated for 15 December. As for the proposal of Hamas member and terrorist 'Abd-Rabbuh Abu-Khusa to disclose the location where MIA Ilan Sa'adon is buried in exchange for the release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, al-Zahhar said that if Israel decides to hold negotiations on the issue he has many ways at his disposal to make good on this offer.

[Al-Zahhar, in English] He put his proposal, and the Israelis should study it. If they have an agreement, they have, frankly, to sit in public. And, after that I think there will be many methods that can put these things in reality. [Amir translates the above] [end recording]

Hamas, PPP, DFLP Reject New Gaza Council

TA2707162794 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 27 Jul 94 p 23

[Excerpts] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has rejected the formation of a municipal council headed by 'Awn al-Shawwa. Hamas considers it an illegal council that does not represent the residents of Gaza, because it was not formed through elections and does not enjoy the approval of all the parties except the authority that continues to adopt unilateral decisions. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian People's Party [PPP] in the Gaza Strip has announced its refusal to participate in forming the Gaza municipal council and its disapproval of the way in which it was formed. It called on the Palestinian Authority to back down from its decision and continue the national dialogue on bases that had been agreed on previously. [passage omitted]

In a press statement released yesterday, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] ruled out the formation of a municipal council that does not enjoy national consensus. [passage omitted]

Hamas Spokesman on Offer to Israel, 'Bleak' Future

BR2707140094 Milan FAMIGLIA CRISTIANA in Italian 5 Aug 94 pp 38-39

[Interview with Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah by Carlo Remeny in Amman on 17 July: "All of Palestine for the Palestinians"]

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[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Remeny] Did 'Arafat not ask you to participate?

[Ghawshah] His invitations came too late. He should have asked us before Oslo, before Washington, and before Cairo. We do not accept the unity he is offering us today. He offered us four posts out of 24 in the autonomous government of Gaza and Jericho, but we reject Palestinian autonomy in those territories as well as the local elections. The only acceptable elections are those which involve all Palestinians, including those who live as refugees outside the country. The reality is that none of us knows who has the majority within the Palestinian camp: 'Arafat, we Islamics, or the Left. However, I would remind you that in June, at the elections held at the Palestinian Najah University in Nablus, Fatah ('Arafat's group) obtained 48.7 percent, and Hamas received 47.4 percent. Some 4,000 students voted. One thing is sure: There will not be peace in Palestine as long as it is the bosses who sign the peace and not the people.

[Remeny] Will you oppose the 'Arafat-Rabin agreements with politics or with arms?

[Ghawshah] If the political means had allowed us to once again take possession of Palestine in its entirety we never would have taken action, but without these political means it would be difficult to get anything from the Jews. After seven years of intifadah, they offered us a zone of autonomy: two percent, mind you, two percent of the total territory of Palestine. Perhaps they will give us something else in Nabulus, in Ramallah, and in Hebron, but that is not enough. The Palestinians want their own country, not another.

[Remeny] What do you mean by action?

[Ghawshah] The right to armed struggle. The Europeans did the same thing against the Nazis.

[Remeny] Do you not fear that you will isolate yourselves from Palestinian society?

[Ghawshah] If 'Arafat managed to give work and food to all Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho, not even that would make the people forget their lost land.

[Remeny] So your ultimate objective is still to set up an Islamic society?

[Ghawshah] Today that is a purely fictitious question, something which is a long way from being achieved. Rabin has said that it has taken 100 years to resolve the disputes between the Palestinians and the Jews. I say it will take another 100 years to resolve the Palestine problem. The future is bleak. Within a year, 'Arafat himself will be under discussion by the Palestinians, who will realize that everything in the autonomy zone belongs to Israel and that the path taken by 'Arafat leads nowhere. We will not go after his supporters. They will come to Hamas.

[Remeny] So you will not be taking part in the upcoming elections in the autonomous territories?

[Ghawshah] No. We want general elections which are also open to the four million Palestinian refugees living abroad.

[Remeny] Is there not a risk that Hamas could clash with the Palestinian police set up along with the autonomous government in Gaza and Jericho?

[Ghawshah] The risk exists, but so far nothing has happened (this interview was carried out on the morning during which Palestinian workers in Gaza stormed the border crossing to Israel, which is patrolled by the Israeli Army, leading to a violent armed clash between Palestinian and Israeli agents—FAMIGLIA CRISTIANA editor's note). We are sure that we have only one enemy: Israel. The Palestinian police are members of the Palestine Liberation Army. They were trained and prepared not to clash with the population but to fight Israel, and that is what they have done, operating out of Lebanon. We cannot rule out, however, that there could be Israeli collaborators among them.

[Remeny] Jordan is negotiating a peace with Israel. What will happen with Hamas in Jordan if King Husayn signs the agreement?

[Ghawshah] We do not interfere in the internal affairs of Jordan. I have been a Jordanian citizen from Jerusalem since 1954. I do not think they would stop me from talking to you. We will remain free here in Jordan. (The Jordanian Islamic Action Front, which is the political expression of the organization of Muslim Brothers—who are unshakable enemies of Israel—has severely condemned the negotiations begun between Amman and Jerusalem—FAMIGLIA CRISTIANA editor's note).

[Remeny] What if the Palestinian refugees living abroad were to accept the peace agreements and decide to support the 'Arafat line?

[Ghawshah] Palestinian businessmen might do that, but they are just a minority.

[Remeny] 'Arafat's wife has said that she will never wear the veil like the women in Gaza do, who are too conservative.

[Ghawshah] That is a matter of personal conviction. There is no pressure to impose it on women. Gaza is certainly more conservative than Jordan. 'Arafat's wife, however, should have more respect for the choices made by others.

[Remeny] Hamas is the main source of aid to the Palestinian population in the West Bank and Gaza. It funds schools, orphanages, and poor families. Where does it receive this money from?

[Ghawshah] From the Palestinians themselves. Muslims have five obligations to respect. One of these is the tax on their earnings which must go to the poor. This is 2.5 percent of their annual earnings. We use this money.

[Remeny] Will Hamas launch other attacks?

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[Ghawshah] If Rabin stops killing civilians, then we will stop our military actions.

Janin Said Next City Slated for Autonomy

TA2807043594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Palestinian sources say the next city slated for Palestinian autonomy is Janin in Samaria. The sources told reporter Moti Amir that this was agreed on in a meeting in Paris between Prime Minister Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat two weeks ago.

The report has not been confirmed by Israeli officials.

Al-Husayni Discusses Jerusalem Question

JN2707121494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1415 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating team to the peace talks, by correspondent Ahmad Zaki on 26 July—recorded] txt [Text] [Zaki] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian team to the peace negotiations. A clause in the Washington Declaration gives Jordan a special role concerning the Muslim holy shrines in Jerusalem. Israel will give high priority to Jordan's historic role toward the shrines during the final negotiations. What are your comments on this clause?

[Al-Husayni] If we are talking about the role Jordan is currently playing, then we appreciate this role and we appreciate the fact that Jordan has been maintaining this role since 1967. We believe that this role should not be undermined by the Israeli side. It should continue until the final negotiations over the status of Jerusalem begin.

The final negotiations are a Palestinian affair. It is a Palestinian responsibility to negotiate with Israel. As for anything related to the Jordanian brothers, that is a Palestinian-Jordanian affair and Israel has nothing to do with it.

[Zaki] Are there any Palestinian steps to shift the responsibility over Islamic awqaf to the Palestinian side instead of the Jordanian side?

[Al-Husayni] You know that there is Palestinian-Jordanian coordination. All these issues are discussed within this framework. We are acting accordingly in a way that guarantees the safety of the holy shrines and their status until the final negotiations begin.

[Zaki] Since there is Palestinian-Jordanian coordination, were you informed about this clause?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, we regret that this did not happen. We heard about it. We know that there is a Jordanian inclination, a certain philosophy. However, we did not know there was an agreement on this issue.

[Zaki] What is Israel's objective behind including this clause in coordination with the Jordanian side?

[Al-Husayni] As I told you, Israel adopted a stand that violates the nature of the agreement we signed with it. In other words, Israel is not the party to decide the issue of the holy shrines. Hence, this is an issue that should be discussed between us and the Jordanians, and Israel has nothing to with it. However, Israel always tries to make itself responsible in the present, past, and the future and at anytime.

I believe that we, as Palestinians and Jordanians, should handle this issue in such a manner that the conflict between us and the occupation will not become a conflict between brothers. This issue should be discussed at the highest levels in terms of Palestinian- Jordanian coordination.

[Zaki] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian team to the peace negotiations. Thank you.

[Al-Husayni] You are welcome.

Authority Said Interested in Confederation

TA2707113694 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by Evelyn Gordon]

[Text] The Palestinian Authority hopes to form a confederation with Jordan, and eventually with Israel as well, Furayh Abu-Middayn, who holds the authority's justice portfolio, said yesterday.

Abu-Middayn was meeting with Justice Minister David Liba'i at the Knesset, where the two had lunch together. This is the first time a member of the Palestinian Authority has been in the Knesset.

Abu-Middayn said he hopes such meetings will take place every two weeks.

He said a confederation with Jordan would be better for the new Palestinian entity than being entirely on its own, according to Liba'i's spokeswoman, Ilana Levi'an.

The main issues discussed by Liba'i and Abu-Middayn were the release of the remaining Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails—especially 37 women—and the end of administrative detentions of Palestinians.

No decisions were made on either issue, however.

Abu-Middayn said he also discussed the possibility of using Israel's forensic laboratories for help in the Palestinian Authority's war on drugs and drug-related crimes.

However, Abu-Middayn said he was very disappointed by the government's decision to pass a law restricting the Palestinian Authority's activity in Jerusalem.

The law came up for its first reading in the Knesset yesterday.

"This is against the spirit of the peace," he said. "This is not the time to raise new problems."

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Group Claims Knowledge of Missing Israelis

NC2707143594 Paris AFP in English 1311 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Beirut, 27 Jul (AFP)—Palestinian dissidents said Wednesday they had "full and detailed" information on the fate of Israeli soldiers killed or missing in action in Lebanon, but would only reveal it under certain conditions.

"We will announce our conditions to discuss the fate of these soldiers at a future date in light of the national interests of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation," the group said in a statement received here by AFP.

The statement, dated July 26, was signed by the "brigades of the martyr Abu-Jihad"—in reference to Khalil al-Wazir, PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's deputy who was gunned down by an Israeli hit squad in Tunis in 1988.

"We have full and detailed information concerning the fate of the Israeli enemy's soldiers who were killed or went missing during and after the 1982 invasion of Lebanon," the Arabic-language statement said.

"We alone can take decisions about their fate ... any discussions that ignore our conditions or that are held with other parties are a waste of time and threaten forever the fate of these soldiers," it said.

The group, founded in the Israeli-occupied territories, broke away from 'Arafat's Fatah movement over allegations of corruption, two years after the Palestinian intifadah, or uprising, erupted in December 1987. It has not been heard of since it was dissolved in 1990.

The brigades said 'Arafat "no longer has any authority over our people and our militants" since he signed an autonomy deal with Israel.

On July 10 a Palestinian official revealed that Israel and the PLO were holding secret negotiations on the fate of six Israeli soldiers reported missing in Lebanon since 1982.

The official, who declined to be named, said the talks centered on how the Palestine Liberation Organisation could help Israel recover their bodies in exchange for the release of Palestinian women prisoners held in Israeli jails.

Six Israeli soldiers have been missing in Lebanon since 1982, but only one of them, airman Ron Arad, is believed to be still alive.

In May Israel kidnapped a pro-Iranian Lebanese guerrilla, Mustafa al-Dirani, from his home in the Syrian-controlled al-Biqa' Valley to gain information about Arad.

The airman's plane was shot down over south Lebanon during an Israeli bombing raid on a Palestinian refugee camp.

Lebanese parliament speaker Nabih Birri, who is also the leader of the pro-Syrian Shiite group Amal, said in 1991 that Arad had been handed over to Iran by al-Dirani for 500,000 dollars. Tehran denied the charge.

'Arafat Reportedly Suspends Palestinian Weekly

NC2707172094 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 18 Jul 94 p 1

[Text] Nicosia—AL-DIYAR has learned from informed sources in Nicosia that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has ordered the suspension of the Palestinian weekly FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH, mouthpiece of the PLO. These sources said that the decision leaves open the fate of the employees of the magazine, which has been published in Nicosia since 1982. It is worth mentioning that these employees filled out several applications from the PLO seeking to determine in which of the cordon states—Jordan, Syria, or Lebanon—they will have their families temporarily reside until they are asked to leave for Gaza and Jericho.

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Algeria

FIS Spokesman Denies Reports of 'Merger'

MM2807101294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Jul 94 p 7

[Interview with Rabeh Kebir, Algerian Islamic Salvation Front's, FIS, spokesman abroad, by Qusayy Salil al-Darwish in Cologne; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Darwish] What is the truth about reports of the union or rather merger of the [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] into the Armed Islamic Group [GIA]?

[Kebir] The FIS has not been absorbed into any other entity. It is still the top political party in Algeria. One or two of its leaders cannot cancel the FIS with a stroke of the pen, particularly as the FIS now has a vast political and popular heritage of pain, imprisonment, and detention defending high hopes and aspirations. So dissolving it or melting it down is out of the question. The regime has done its best to achieve that but, thank God, the FIS has remained a main initiator of events, a real force at home and abroad capable of ending Algeria's current crisis.

[Al-Darwish] But the decision to absorb the FIS into the GIA was made by the FIS' secret leadership with the contribution of Saeed Makhloufi, one of the most prominent armed action leaders belonging to the FIS.

[Kebir] You undoubtedly mean the Provisional National Executive Bureau. Abdelrazzak Rijam heads the National Committee for Information and, in that capacity, he used to sign FIS statements. Mohamed Saeed is a member of the FIS National Shura Council and a member of the crisis cell [as published]. So these two brothers represent only a part of the political leadership of the internal underground movement, and, therefore, have no right to sign a decision of that degree of seriousness without the approval of the FIS leadership institutions, especially, of course, the cheiks who are in prison or those who have been released; but they did not consult anyone at any level. As regards Saeed Makhloufi who signed the "union" statement, he did so without his partners in the tripatite leadership of the Islamic State Movement, namely Abdelkader Shabouti and Ezziddine Baah.

[Al-Darwish] So what happened was a split within FIS ranks.

[Kebir] The FIS is still fine. True, these three brothers did join the GIA and it is also true that Anouar Haddam declared support for the move in a public statement, but the FIS as an organization still exists on the ground and is still just as strong in the field of jihad action. In fact, it has never been stronger since the coup, especially after the formation of its military wing represented by the Islamic Salvation Army and the emergence of leadership in both the east and the west with an organizational framework for coordination between them.

[Al-Darwish] Do you mean to say that the fact that Mohamed Saeed, Abdelrazzak Rijam, Saeed Makhloufi, and Anouar Haddam have joined the GIA will not cause complications and create problems for the FIS?

[Kebir] Actually, such action by some leaders who, although not fully representing the FIS, were famous leaders in the area, does create complications and confuses some people but I believe that the FIS, with its political record and popular depth, can overcome this crisis just as it overcame many crises before, turning them to its advantage.

[Al-Darwish] In your view, what drove a politically minded person and one who represented an ideological trend (the Eljazaara school of thought) such as Mohamed Saeed to take such a step? Could it be that he decided that the FIS formula no longer suited the new and changing realities?

[Kebir] I believe that Cheik Mohamed Saeed is the victim of certain ideas passed to him from his circle which were perhaps based on personal motives. Brother Mohamed Saeed will certainly discover later on that he was the victim of such dishonest ideas. That, however, would not absolve him of responsibility because he did not consult his brothers nor did he consult the field leaders whom he represented. As regards the second part of the question, I believe that the FIS is still the best formula for the fulfillment of the Algerian people's aspiration to change.

[Al-Darwish] What was the reaction of Abbasi Madani and Ali Belhadj to the step taken by Mohamed Saeed and Rijam?

[Kebir] It should be pointed out here that unification of ranks is a legitimate demand and a realistic necessity but, important as it is, it should be done in studied steps and on the basis of wide consultation. The best formula for unity would be one in the context of an FIS framework and on FIS ideological grounds. Our information is that Madani and Belhadj categorically reject the absorption of the FIS into any other framework. They welcome and work for unity but within an FIS framework.

[Al-Darwish] It is known that the GIA categorically and absolutely rejects the idea of political dialogue and believes in the establishment of an Islamic state through armed action only, all kinds of armed action, be it against the regime or the social sectors which do not agree with it. That does not blend with the Eljazaara school of thought which has from the beginning favored dialogue in the broader sense. Do you believe that the fact that Mohamed Saeed has joined the GIA means abandoning the views of the Eljazaara school of thought and turning completely to violence?

[Kebir] I do not believe that Mohamed Saeed's trend has abandoned its ideas and views. That is why there is a lack of harmony in the announced "union" formula.

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[Al-Darwish] How do you mean not abandoned? The statement he signed says: "no dialogue, no bond, and no pledge with that infidel regime."

[Kebir] True, the statement did contain that phrase but if you examine Anouar Haddam's statements you will see that after his support for the "union" statement, he issued other statements which ran contrary to the statements issued by the GIA. He, for instance, condemned the killing and kidnapping of foreigners and the recent abduction of the two ambassadors. He said the authorities were behind it, but the GIA denies that. That is why I believe that the signed statement does not necessarily mean that either side has abandoned its ideas.

[Al-Darwish] The FIS has hitherto been characterized by its ability to rise above regional sensitivies and fanaticism, as demonstrated in the last elections. But the latest split opens a regional gap in its ranks, as the central region has not pledged allegiance to the FIS and appears to be loyal to the GIA.

[Kebir] That is not true at all. For example, in the central region there is brother Ezziddine Baah who is still loyal to the FIS, and also Abdelkader Shabouti and many independent groups which need discipline and organization, and preparations are being made for that. As regards the FIS' popular dimension and presence in the central region, it is still the strongest, which makes it a national reality that cannot be influenced by regionalism. The coming days will clarify what seems unclear today.

[Al-Darwish] At any rate, it is clear that the position regarding the step taken by Saeed and his colleagues will be determined or has been determined by the armed action leaders and their statements. Do you not believe that this means that the initiative is now realistically in the hands of the "military" elements, and does that not remind you of what happened within the National Liberation Front [FLN] before independence?

[Kebir] Anyway, some situations are better handled by the military, such as this one because the union statement was issued by military elements.

[Al-Darwish] And politicians, too.

[Kebir] I would say politicians represented by military elements. At any rate, there is no problem because the military are also politicians and they abide by the decision of the FIS' political leadership, which means that there is no resemblance to what occurred within the FLN, because the military have complied with the political leadership's decision in their statements.

[Al-Darwish] On the basis of using jihad as a means of establishing Islamic rule.

[Kebir] At any rate, the FIS had opted for peaceful work for the establishment of an Islamic state in Algeria, but the regime's rejection of the results of the peaceful political process left no room for anything other than armed jihad until the regime comes to its senses. Therefore, armed jihad is a means, not an end in itself.

[Al-Darwish] But a means that is a substitute for political action, according to the statement of the eastern and western regions.

[Kebir] I do not agree with that. I believe that they complement one another. People's recourse to jihad action should not be interpreted as a rejection of political action. The joint statement of the eastern and western regions contained a clear and a clever point which is that the major issues should be left to the people they belong to, namely the qualified leaders.

[Al-Darwish] Do you not fear that what happened might be a prelude to armed clashes in the field between the FIS supporters and GIA supporters, and that liquidation wars might break out, as in Afghanistan?

[Kebir] There is no similitary between Algeria and Afghanistan whether at the level of popular consciousness or at the level of Shari'ah law and harmony between the field commands. That is in addition to the presence of the historic leadership which is the safety valve and which still commands the respect of all parties. I therefore rule out the possibility of bloody clashes.

[Al-Darwish] That is your position, but what about the other front?

[Kebir] Our brothers on the other side are mature enough and have enough knowledge of the Shari'ah to refrain, God willing, from shedding Muslim blood. I believe that the differences of opinion which resulted in different frameworks for the work of the mujahidin are not so great as to lead to bloodshed or dishonor.

[Al-Darwish] The regime's circles and leadership have recently been talking again about dialogue, and it is claimed that a new dialogue initiative will be announced any moment. Have you been contacted, and what is your position?

[Kebir] It is too early to talk about seriousness on the part of the regime. We are used to hearing such talk from some of the regime's representatives but they soon turn that into action in the opposite direction. Perhaps Liamine Zeroual has lost control, judging by the statements and speeches he makes, or maybe he does not believe in dialogue and, like his predecessors, just talks about it as a maneuvering tactic. Our position has not changed because it is a principled position. We do not reject the principle of seeking a negotiated solution provided the minimum requirements are met, including release of the cheiks and introduction of relaxation measures that would demonstrate the regime's seriousness and goodwill.

FIS Official on Movement's Positions, Plans

NC2707161094 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 15 Jul 94 p 24

[Interview with Anouar Haddam, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front

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abroad, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—originally published by FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH; date of original publication not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] What is your assessment of the situation in Algeria after two years of confrontation between the Islamic movement and the regime?

[Haddam] Aborting the first democratic elections in Algeria has had catastrophic results in all spheres. Approximately 4,000 citizens have been killed by the authorities' blind violence. Arbitrary arrests, torture, and the indiscriminate killing of civilians (women and men) have become routine. Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders and thousands of its followers are locked up in jails or sent to desert exile camps. Add to this the regime's inability to provide the simplest daily needs to the public like food, housing, jobs, and medicines. The country has a severe shortage of water and bread.

Politically, the abolition of the elections and the replacement of the people's authority with the Army's authority has led to a general collapse of the state, necessarily followed by the collapse of society. The new authority, which violated the Constitution, does not enjoy even the semi-legality of the 30-year one-party government that followed the departure of the French colonialists. Under the new authority we saw many governments rise and fall in a very short time.

Economically, it is clear that Algeria is passing through the worst period of its history. For the first time, it has been unable to pay its debts (1993). The conditions dictated by the IMF, including the dinar's devaluation by more than 65 percent, ending the subsidies on basic commodities, and privatizing state-owned economic establishments, have made things worse.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that you are pessimistic about Algeria's future? Do you see a way out of the current crisis?

[Haddam] Algeria's crisis is a natural consequence of former conditions. It can only disappear when its causes are abolished. The authorities encroached on the people's choice, overthrew the election results, and stole the FIS victory. We believe that the first step to pull out of the current predicament is to end the government forces' assaults on the people, recognize the people's choice, and begin serious and constructive negotiations to build a political system under which the political authorities draw their power from the people. The rule of law would be restored and the state could then adopt the economic measures necessary to end the violence and hardships from which the Algerian people suffer. We feel profound sorrow for the current conditions but we are confident that the people's choice will eventually triumph and that things will improve, God willing.

[Correspondent] Muslims, particularly those following the Algerian situation, fear that differences among Islamic groups in Algeria would create a situation similar to that in Afghanistan. How would you comment on that?

[Haddam] We do not deny that there are differences in methods and in the perceived way of achieving the common end, but these differences are limited.

There is a consensus, not only in the ranks of the Islamic movement but among all the political forces in Algeria, that the current regime is illegitimate and should be changed. This is the common goal. To achieve it, the Algerian people have no recourse—in the absence of political life—but to armed struggle. The Algerians have to resist the terror practiced by the state.

[Correspondent] What would be your priorities if you were to come to power?

[Haddam] Our priorities are to rebuild the institutions that the people chose and trusted. Our main aim is to create a political infrastructure that will enable the country to enter the 21st century in a manner commensurate with the abilities and values of the Algerian people.

[Correspondent] How do you see the relation between the West, particularly France, and an Algerian Islamic regime?

[Haddam] Our relations with the West will remain cordial and constructive. We aim to create a climate of cooperation rather than hostility, an atmosphere inspired by mutual interests rather than exploitation.

The same thing applies to France, but it has first to shed its legacy as an imperialist force in the region.

[Correspondent] There are fears that the Islamists, if they were to reach power, might fail to resolve the Algerian economic problem. What methods will you adopt for resolving the economic crisis and the foreign debt problem?

[Haddam] Solving the problem of debts is not our responsibility alone, but also that of all the creditors and all the previous governments in Algeria as well. We will inherit a problem that we did not create. Therefore, our role in its solution will be partial, not exclusive. We should not forget the approximately $35 billion that the officials of the military regime robbed and transferred to Swiss banks with the knowledge and blessing of Algeria's creditors.

We see our contribution to solving this problem as follows:

1. We will buy our debts from the World Bank and private banks (70 percent of Algerian debts). To finance that endeavor, the legitimate popular government will issue a call to Algerians at home and abroad to buy zero-interest government-guaranteed bonds.

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2. We will create a system combining economic growth with foreign capital so as to solve the problem of unemployment.
3. We will privatize state-owned land by selling it only to Algerians. This will alleviate the budget problems of the state and the municipalities, for the expense of managing these lands is considerable. This move will also give a boost to the agricultural sector and reduce the country's reliance on food imports.

We are certain that, unlike the military clique, FIS will succeed in bringing political and economic stability to Algeria.

[Correspondent] How will you deal with the ruling regime if you take power?

[Haddam] First of all, since the January 1992 coup, there has been no constitutional government in Algeria, only a military clique with an extremist secular facade. Second, the only way to deal with the elements of this clique is to put them on trial in a stable country and in accordance with international laws and norms.

Dembri Discusses Ties With U.S., Europe, Arabs

LD2707214294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1102 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Studio interview with Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri by Mohsin Slimani; date not given; from the "Transformations" program—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Slimani] Ladies and gentlemen, peace be upon you and welcome to the last edition for this year of "Transformations." Today the program has the honor to welcome Algerian Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri.

This year, Algerian diplomacy has been very apparent in various foreign capitals. The task seemed difficult at the outset because of the developments witnessed by our country in recent years, and because of the fact that Algeria has become the focus of everyone's attention. [passage omitted]

To begin with, Mr. Dembri, you have made numerous trips and undertaken intensive activity abroad in general to explain and defend Algerian views in the current economic and political situation. Can you tell us what the main issues are that you have defended during your talks with foreigners? Do you assess this diplomatic activity as having been positive, or is it still suffering from some shortcomings?

[Dembri] Thank you. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. First of all, I would like to thank you for this invitation that will enable me to clarify everything related to Algerian diplomacy and its activities. I believe that the description you have just given of the activities of the past 10 months is comprehensive and provides an overall view of what we have achieved and about our defense of national Algerian interests, taking into account Algeria's position in the world and defining the priorities, as warranted by the current situation, for our dear country.

A year ago, we were faced by the general problem of Algeria's role following the end of the Cold War. In fact, we went through various crises vis-a-vis the internal situation; there was a need for radical reforms to organize society; we needed political reforms. With regard to the national economy, there was a need to embark on introducing a market economy. These policies were imposed on us; they were priorities, defining Algerian foreign strategy so that the outside world would clearly understand all that we were doing in order to construct the new Algerian society within the framework of respect for the republican and democratic system, and all the constituents of Algerian national identity. [passage omitted]

[Slimani] Just to clarify a point: You have made previous statements on negotiations over economic matters and the debt issue and you once said that you preferred to discuss the subject from a political angle and not from a technical angle. What did you mean by political angle?

[Dembri] When we talk about the common interest, this requires an assessment and this assessment includes everything we undertake within the framework of conventional cooperation. When we look at Europe's relations with the Arab Maghreb, we notice that Algeria has contributed a great deal. Algeria was and is still a developing country, but at the same time it has natural resources which it offers to the European countries, and it imports other things. We see that in the technological field, in particular, we have done significant work. The entire industrial infrastructure in Algeria is in fact imported and most of the equipment in the factories comes from Europe. [passage omitted]

We told Europe that exchanges between us are in fact unbalanced. We pay more for what we get. When we undertake a project such as the gas pipeline, we give Tunisia, or Morocco in the future, an economic potential. This is at Algeria's expense and not at Europe's expense. Therefore, we said that it was necessary to deal with one another, regarding financial aid and the economic framework in general, not on the basis of existing practices but within the framework of a political assessment to determine who has benefited most and who has really helped in the development of other countries.

We have given a great deal. We have contributed to the growth of the Tunisian economy and we will contribute to the growth of the Moroccan economy, because Algerian gas will tomorrow feed the entire Moroccan industrial infrastructure and will be used in Moroccan homes. We also pay taxes for this pipeline. All this proves that Algeria has an overall vision of cooperation and that it shares its own natural resources with neighbors and foreigners. Therefore, a political assessment is necessary at this stage. Debts are based on such exchanges; to

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acquire technology, we ask for loans to finance operations, and this in turn imposes on us bank interest that we have to pay. This is the economic reality which made us demand political negotiations.

[Slimani] Was this understood by the Europeans partners?

[Dembri] Yes, according to the officials we have met. This debate went on quite well; therefore the European Union spoke, through the parliament, at the end of October 1993 and put forward a resolution. This resolution, which received unanimous support from the members of the European Parliament, asked that Algeria's public debt be (?written off). The resolution was then put to the executive body in Brussels. This in turn involves technical aspects such as the question of who will negotiate on Algeria's behalf. In all frameworks, such as the Paris Club and the London Club in the future, and also in bilateral cooperation, the question is: How can this political gain be best exploited? Because this is a great political gain.

[Slimani] Politically, and according to the national press, does a state like France have strong relations of cooperation with Algeria? Does the political concept exist or not, and do economic reforms take priority over political matters?

[Dembri] There is understanding as a far as all these countries are concerned on the need for political and economic reforms in the country. There is in fact a good acceptance of all that we as government are doing at present. There is no doubt about that. However, there are naturally people —this is the world of politics—who wonder whether we will be able to complete the transitional period within the fixed time; that is, three years. We recall that the prime minister himself spoke and said that perhaps this transitional period—that is, the return to the electoral process—will be completed before these three years have passed. These are matters which show that there is a program under way; depending on what we may succeed in achieving during this stage, it is in fact possible to reduce the period. There is, however, a specific program within a defined and known framework. The institutions of the transitional stage have been established and the intention to achieve national dialogue still prevails; dialogue is still open to all the members of the Algerian community.

[Slimani] There are some who may perhaps ask whether you are doing all you can to enlarge the platform of dialogue, to include the opposition which has not participated in the transitional institutions.

[Dembri] No, I believe that this concept of opposition is incorrect because in our view as a government—and this transpires from all that was clarified by the head of state and the prime minister—first of all, there is no opposition and ruling body. There is a ruling body which has an obligation to create all the conditions for the success of the transitional stage and there are political and social groups which are organizing themselves for dialogue as far as the building of the new Algerian society, which we talked about, is concerned.

However, there is no opposition and ruling body. I believe that this concept is incorrect. There is a ruling body naturally, because there is a state and it is necessary to preserve the unity of the nation and the state and at the same time organize the political process in the transitional stage. This political process is achieved by a general dialogue among all the Algerian political and social groups, what is called now the civil society and so on, as well as the national personalities who have a patriotic reputation. In reality this is the intention, but the concept of opposition and ruling body I believe is incorrect.

[Slimani] We ask the foreign minister to turn to another topic—diplomatic activity toward the United States. There is a debate in the national and foreign media on the U.S. position on the political and economic situation in Algeria. Mr. Dembri has made moves toward Washington. Can you give us a first reading of the American view on what is happening in Algeria politically, particularly as it has been described as being different from the European view?

[Dembri] True. When we went to the United States and had a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and a group of State Department officials, we found different points of view among the political circles in general. We did not have to exaggerate matters to the politicians in charge at the American departments— to Warren Christopher, Congress and Senate members we met, the media, and university circles. We spoke to all of them about the current situation in Algeria. There was a wrong interpretation at first because...

[Slimani, interrupting] Wrong interpretation by whom?

[Dembri] By some American circles, because they knew that there is now a radical change in Algeria from a one-party system to pluralism. That created problems. Some issues may have been known in the past few years which were perhaps discussed and taken into consideration, but now the question is: Is there a real intention to achieve something during the transitional period or not? That was a question asked by all Americans. But when the program and the political vision were detailed, things became clearer and there were no problems between us.

It is not a matter that only affects the current government. It affects the various activities of Algerian politicians abroad and they sometimes give an untrue picture of the situation. That is something else, and we will perhaps be required tomorrow to carry out a special assessment because we will have to adopt a new code of ethics.

Are Algerian national issues to be interpreted abroad or here, on the national sphere, publicly, and without

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...[pauses] We can talk here in Algeria about everything. There are no problems. But when one goes off, as an Algerian politician with party objectives might do, and talks and asks for an embargo to be imposed on all aid coming from abroad, an embargo on Algeria, that is something which the mind cannot accept. They [not further specified] have to think about that.

I'll give you an example. When the former French national defense minister Chevenement came to Algeria and gave a lecture in the Foreign Ministry's lecture hall, he was asked a question about his opinion on current French affairs. He said: Excuse me, but we do not speak about France's internal affairs abroad with foreigners. We speak about them with the French people in France.

That is what must go into the morals and ethics of Algerian politics. Our political matters must be solved here, in Algeria, and not abroad, and we must not ask for sanctions against my country. That is unacceptable, unacceptable behavior.

There are now statements being made abroad and these statements have greatly embarrassed the Algerian people. Our internal matters should be resolved here within the country. These are the clarifications we offer when we go abroad. Every time, we have to correct wrong views, views that were not based on truth. We correct these views and we show that there is a state, there are Algerians, and patriotism unites all Algerians regardless of the situation. This patriotism will help them, once again, to overcome all difficulties.

[Slimani] Mr. Dembri, from your contacts with the U.S. Administration, do you believe that the U.S. executive authorities are satisfied with the Algerian state's program and policy on the present situation?

[Dembri] Yes, we have official documents, a communique and letters from congressional officials, welcoming everything set out in the speeches of Liamine Zeroual, the head of state, after his appointment and during the appointment of the Transitional National Council. There is indeed daily work which we must do, in terms of planning. This has been discussed and will become clear.

Now, when are we going to return to the electoral process? This is a question at issue. People are aware of what we are doing and this political planning will become clear tomorrow after the government's program has been presented to the Transitional National Council. There is joint work which we must do. These matters are clear in the perceptions of us held by foreign countries, including the United States. They welcomed our political vision and the courage of the economic reforms. This welcome was tangible.

There is, however, another thing which we must understand well. When the Algerian Government, through the foreign minister, carries out a mission abroad, the government is not asking for advice from these countries. [passage omitted]

This is because we do not accept interference in our internal affairs and what we are asking from all political groups and parties in Algeria is that they should abide by this principle, because this is the first principle for building the independence of countries in this world. There are those who call for an international symposium on Algerian political issues. This is alien, first, to political practice in any human society and, second, it is alien to Algerian patriotism. It is not acceptable, it is unacceptable. I believe that the political elite proved its ability during the war of liberation, the period of rebuilding the country, and so on, and is capable of dealing with matters here in Algeria without asking for advice from foreign countries. This is what we can say about this...

[Slimani, interrupting] A last question on the European and American stance and the government program, on the political side and as regards economic reforms. It is just a point. Do you think, Mr. Dembri, that the negotiating activities and the activities of Algerian diplomacy abroad are made somewhat uneasy as a result of the incidents of violence, especially those affecting foreigners in Algeria? Is there understanding abroad of this subject in particular?

[Dembri] No, this issue of the assassination of foreigners and that kind of thing has weakened Algeria, because foreign countries are aware of Algeria's traditional values. Algeria is an Arab country with a Muslim people and these incidents of violence are alien to Algerian society. At the same time, what is the aim of these assassinations? To isolate Algeria. We are just asking questions, putting a question mark. Because now Algeria really needs all its sincere sons, as we have been saying for a long time. Algeria can only be built by Algerians. In the present circumstances, however, there may be technological and other reasons why in our effort to build the country we need a foreign technical workforce; during the time they spend with us, we must consider these foreigners to be members of the Algerian family. [passage omitted]

[Slimani] We now move on to the topic of Algeria in the Arab Maghreb region. Algeria is chairing the Arab Maghreb Union and these days is moving toward countries like Libya. The question we will begin with is the Western Saharan dispute. The referendum was recently postponed until next year. How does Algeria view the postponement, particularly since in the past it asked for the implementation of the UN resolutions and called for speeding up the referendum process?

[Dembri] There is a UN plan. According to this UN plan, the referendum should take place in December 1994, but the secretary general thinks that it will take place in February 1995 because there is a delay and because of the process of identification of all participants in these elections.

We support the UN plan, but there are problems which have not been dealt with so far. The issue of voter

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identification is still in the cards and must be dealt with in the next few months. There is the issue of organizing the election campaign—how will it take place? There is the issue of specifying positions for the Moroccan Army in the Western Sahara and distancing the Moroccan administration from the citizens so that there is no interference.

The UN plan talks of direct negotiations among the Saharans, Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro], and Morocco to achieve the best conditions to resolve these issues. These are points which have been proposed. These negotiations have not taken place so far and perhaps they will lead to another tomorrow. It is necessary for all...[pauses] We are politicians and we must always look toward the future. If these matters are not dealt with in what are currently good conditions, with direct negotiations as proposed by international legality, perhaps they will lead to new difficulties and the referendum will not be held at the right time, or perhaps other matters...[pauses] and that is what we wanted to make clear in the public opinion.

When I went to New York and saw UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, I discussed all these matters with him. There are several issues which are necessary to deal with as soon as possible in direct negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario Front. That is in line with Security Council resolutions. That is our position.

Now, it was proposed, in another framework, that a political solution between the Polisario and Morocco could be reached. And why not if these direct negotiations between the Polisario and Morocco lead them to talk about a certain political solution? We welcome all proposals and Algeria supports everything that comes out of a direct agreement between two parties and anything that will lead them to having a collective position on that referendum. We...

[Slimani, interupting] Another question, briefly because of the time. Concerning the future or Algeria's role in the region and the future of a solution of the dispute in the region, are there any ideas of Algeria's vision on the issue when the referendum takes place or whatever the solution may be?

[Dembri] Look, political solutions were proposed betwen 1983 and 1990-91. Many proposals have been made. The Moroccan king had a meeting with the Polisario Front in Marrakesh and spoke then. Regardless of the political solution, it is not a new thing. He spoke of a political solution and admitted the existence of a Saharan national identity. If we are to remain in that context, the political solution may perhaps be known. [sentence as heard] That is what we keep reminding them of from time to time, because Polisario's agreement to stop fighting was based on the beginning of a political agreement between the two parties.

[Slimani] We move now to the Arab world and your moves and contacts in the Arab world, especially after your recent visit to Cairo. Foreign Minister, you said, in your statement then, that you had talked about an economic bloc in the Arab world, which is now the scene of immense developments regarding the peace process, the most recent of which is the agreement between Jordan and Israel on ending the state of war between them. There was also the Israeli-PLO agreement. Is there, within Algeria's foreign strategy, a review or a sort of accommodation with these developments?

[Dembri] Yes, these are prospects which should be defined on the level of the Arab world as a whole. We are, indeed, an Arab country that has its say in this context. The question now is: How should Arab countries be dealing with each other? Should we keep to the traditional way which meant political dialogue without the building of an Arab economic power? There are huge resources in the Arab world, money and natural resources. In fact, when we look at the exploitation and use of these these strong resources, frankly we find that they are used to the benefit of foreign countries.

This reality requires us to review Arab cooperation. That is to say, if there is South-South cooperation, it should start to be implemented and imposed in the Arab world at this stage. That is why, when we spoke to our Egyptian brothers, we noted that there were development plans in Egypt and the Arab Maghreb, but we also told them that we thought some economic projects and achievements contradict each other because we have not built the economic integration that would, in the future, allow us to provide a large market of consumers in the Arab world. We also stressed the need for a distribution of roles in the economic field between Arab countries; that is to say, we should create modernized agriculture and farming activities in some countries and expand the industrial infrastructure in all Arab countries. I mean to say, we should draw up a development plan for the Arab world as a whole. This is, indeed, what we have been in the process of doing by creating the regional economic communities known now—the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA], there are other countries which have not yet found a framework.

[Slimani] In this context Egypt has put forward the idea of a Mediterranean community, and there is in the Arab Maghreb the Five Plus Five Group [five UMA states and five European Mediterranean states], but there is the Lockerbie affair and there are also the recent Algerian moves toward Libya. Does Algeria agree to Egypt's proposals and views regarding this Mediterranean community?

[Dembri, laughing] Wait, this is another issue here. We should carry on with the idea of an Arab economic bloc, because it is indispensable and because it is the factor that would help to build sound Arab solidarity. It is essential that we should meet and at least talk about the

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developments in the world arena and decide on the things and stances we should adopt, as Arabs, to build the Arab homeland we have been talking about all the time, yet without a single action having been taken to build it. That is why we said that a concept of reconciliation and at the same time frankness should be adopted in inter-Arab relations. This is a necessity. We should abandon the pattern of altercation. There are now, for example, some who wonder whether there is a conflict of civilizations in Algeria; in fact these are all things which do not reflect the reality about any country.

Regarding the policy...

[Slimani, interrupting] Our time is up.

[Dembri] Regarding Mediterranean policy, Egypt has its ideas and we have ours. These ideas are in harmony on some points but not on others. We have proposed the issue of Arab consensus and for this reason we have extended an invitation to all the Arab Mediterranean countries at the level of senior officials. This was an Algerian-Syrian initiative, if you remember, to build-...[pauses] to determine an Arab consensus on Mediterranean issues.

If we want to make progress on political solutions we must work continually to provide an Arab consensus, whatever the number of the those participating in a forum or meeting. Therefore, we thought we should end the obscurity and clarify the Arab view on the subject, then, if there were one or two or four countries which went to any particular forum, they would at least be expressing the views of all the Arabs. [passage omitted]

Sonatrach Ships Liquefied Natural Gas to Turkey

LD2807090094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Sonatrach started yesterday the first shipment of liquefied natural gas [LNG] to Turkey. The first load, which was estimated at 125,000 cubic meters, was carried by the Algerian ship Bachir Chihabi.

This first shipment commences implementation of the contract signed between Sonatrach and the Turkish company Botas which stipulates that Algeria will supply Turkey with 2 billion cubic meters of gas a year over a period of 20 years.

On the occasion of the delivery of the first quantity of Algerian LNG to Turkey, Minister of Industry and Energy Amar Makhloufi will pay a working visit to Turkey on Saturday, the day after tomorrow.

A source close to the Ministry of Industry and Energy pointed out that the visit aims at opening a new era in the history of economic relations between the two countries and will enable an expansion of the areas of cooperation between them.

Egypt

Mubarak, Rabin on 'Positive' Washington Outcome

NC2807124094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1203 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this afternoon.

During their conversation the two men discussed the positive outcome of the peace talks held during Rabin's visit to Washington and the step taken toward a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East with the signing of the Israeli-Jordanian Agreement.

Mubarak Phones Fahd, Zayid; Congratulates Husayn

NC2707203694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak placed telephone calls this evening to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan of the United Arab Emirates.

The three leaders discussed the march toward a Middle East peace and Arab developments. They also exchanged views on a number of regional issues.

The president received a telephone call from King Husayn of Jordan, during which they discussed the signing of the Washington Declaration between Jordan and Israel and contacts and consultations to establish a comprehensive peace in the region. The president congratulated the Jordanian monarch on a historic achievement along the road to a just and comprehensive peace.

Pakistani Speaker Praises Peace Efforts

NC2707152294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Pakistani Parliament Speaker Yusuf Raza Jilani has declared his country's support for Egypt's efforts to establish a fair and permanent peace in the Middle East. He praised the sincere efforts of President Mubarak and the Egyptian people in this regard. He made this statement during a meeting today with Consultative Council Speaker Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi. They also reviewed Egypt's foreign relations, which are based on mutual respect, an effective contribution to peaceful solutions to regional problems, and on concerted international efforts to entrench the foundations of peace and stability in the Middle East on the basis of legitimacy and law.

Musa Holds Talks With FYROM Foreign Minister

NC2707175594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt welcomes all overtures to

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strengthen ties with Macedonia [FYROM—Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia]. In a statement following talks with his Macedonian counterpart Stevo Crvenkovski today, Musa stressed Egypt's concern to establish strong relations with Macedonia. He noted that during the talks they discussed developments in Bosnia and the Balkans and bilateral relations. He said that agreement was reached to strengthen ties in various fields and to consider establishing diplomatic representation.

Crvenkovski said that the tragic situation in Bosnia needs a firm stand by the international community to put an end to racial segregation there.

FYROM Minister Ends Visit

NC2807085094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0614 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jul (MENA)—Macedonian [FYROM—Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia] Foreign Minister Stevo Crvenkovski left Cairo for home this morning after a three-day visit to Egypt.

During his stay the Macedonian minister met Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. They reviewed Arab-Macedonian relations and developments in the Balkans.

Chinese Official Signs Media Protocol, Departs

NC2807072394 Cairo MENA in English 2225 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—The Chinese deputy minister of radio cinema and television left here tonight after a five-day visit to Egypt.

The Chinese official had met with Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and T.V. chief 'Abd-al-Salam al-Nadi. A Chinese-Egyptian protocol on media cooperation was signed.

Bangladeshi Jute Minister, Delegation Arrive

NC2807085194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jul (MENA)—Bangladeshi Minister of State for Jute Hannan Shah and his delegation arrived in Cairo at dawn today for a two-day visit to Egypt.

Shah said upon arrival that during his brief working visit he will meet Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture, and businessmen to discuss prospects for boosting bilateral cooperation.

Former Yemeni Prime Minister Leaves Cairo

NC2707175394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1639 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—Former Yemeni Prime Minister Abu-Bakr al-'Attas left Cairo this afternoon at the end of a one-day visit to Egypt.

Delegation Returns From Talks With IMF

NC2707155094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] The Egyptian economic delegation that held talks with IMF officials in Washington returned to Cairo early this morning. The delegation members met with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi today and reviewed the most important results of these negotiations.

A highly-placed economic source stated that the negotiations with the IMF were constructive and that the IMF showed full understanding of all Egyptian economic policies and the stages of the economic reform program. The source said that the IMF praised Egypt's success in controlling the general budget deficit and the continued drop in the inflation rate. He said that the issue of altering the exchange rate was not broached, noting that the stability of the exchange rate constitutes a mainstay of the economic reform program. He said that the financial circles expect a drop in the U.S. dollar's exchange rate against the Egyptian pound. The source noted that the two parties agreed that an IMF delegation will visit Cairo in August to complete the negotiations.

Libya

Government Urges Sudan-Egypt Reconciliation

NC2607151394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—Libyan diplomatic sources in Cairo have said that the Libyan Foreign Ministry has sent an urgent message to the Sudanese Government urging it to reduce tension between Sudan and Egypt.

The sources noted that the Libyan Foreign Ministry's message was prompted by Sudan's memorandums to the UN Security Council, the Arab League, and the Organization of African Unity concerning its relations with Egypt.

The Libyan sources said that the Libyan message urged Sudan to stop its media campaigns against Egypt and to improve the relations between the two countries.

FRY's Lilic Seeks Libyan Support in Region

LD2707162894 Tripoli JANA in English 1452 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] [No dateline as received]—President Zoran Lilic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia gave a speech at the dinner banquet held in his honour. The speech went as follows:

Honoured friend, Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi,

Oh friends, I thank you for the warm words of welcome, the generous hospitality and goodwill which you shown us in this friendly nation, the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

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I also thank you for your sentiments about events in Yugoslavia, this meeting gives me great pleasure. Libya's stance also gives me great pleasure, a country which has always viewed Yugoslavia as a friend. This friendship goes back to the days of the victory of the great al-Fatih revolution under your leadership. I will take this opportunity to highlight the support of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's efforts in pursuing a principled and peaceful course in the face of the accusations made against it, an attitude which stems from its respect for legitimacy and the sovereignty of nations and people. Our country also supports the legitimate rights of the Libyan Jamahiriyah to have the sanctions imposed on it removed. This requires that Libya is given due regard as a full member of the international community, for it holds its place just as the Yugoslav Republic holds a place.

The Republic of Yugoslavia will always remain true to its traditional friends and firmly adheres to the principles of co-operation and harmony between nations, relations which it worked for for several years.

The people of Libya and the people of Yugoslavia have the right to build their countries, to raise the standard of living of their citizens, and the right of self determination. And no one has the right to prevent them from exercising these rights. The right assumed by only 15 per cent of the world's population to manipulate the lives of 85 per cent of the world's population can only be done by abusing the UN Charter and the misuse of all the various treaties. They are transforming legal methods into the use of force, and violence. I am sure that this won't ever happen.

Your honour, Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, our country has given great attention to the exceptional co-operation between the Republic of Yugoslavia and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. For example, I would like to highlight economic co-operation between our countries. I consider this co-operation to be of the most considerable significance in order to ensure the prosperity and well being of our respective nations, particularly at this time when our countries are being subjected to sanctions. So, this should be given special attention, particularly the willingness of the Libyan Jamahiriyah and yourself to ensure co-operation in such difficult times.

I am sure, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, that this meeting play a great part in co-operation and will also be a powerful force in preserving relations between our respective countries. I am sure that this will be in the interests of both our countries and that the Libyan Jamahiriyah, as a friendly nation, as you pointed out, despite all the trying circumstances which both our countries are passing through, will give real support to rebuild Yugoslavia despite events there. These are matters which we spoke about yesterday and today. I am sure that you will be our go-between with the other Arab countries to overcome the present decline in relations between our country and these countries to clarify our position and to ensure that these countries adopt an impartial stance vis a vis the war underway in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Such support and such a role on your part will help to bring about peace and to bring an end to the tragic war which outside forces are trying to fuel, with the aim of bringing about the collapse of the present Yugoslavia just as it did the former Yugoslavia. It is inevitable that peace will be achieved between the Serbs and Muslims and that they will live in peace and mutual co-operation. This can be the only way of life in the conditions of our country.

They should be careful not to be drawn in by those who brought about the present situation. There are extremists on both sides who do not want peace nor do they want peace for their peoples. Luckily, these extremeists are a minority, they are few and with our joint efforts we will succeed in defeating them.

I will end by thanking you once more, on behalf of the delegation I am heading and on behalf of the Yugoslav people. I wish you and the Libyan people good health and I hope for progress and well being for your people and for the strengthening of friendship between our countries. I end this speech with a sentence I just remembered: 'A people can never be defeated', thank you.

Lilic, al-Qadhdhafi on Bosnia

LD2807104894 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1004 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Tripoli, July 28 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav President Zoran Lilic ended a two-day official visit to the Libyan Jamahiriya and left Tripoli Thursday morning [28 July].

Lilic and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi met as many as four times, which was taken here as a sign of the importance attached to the visit by the host.

The Libyan leader said in a brief statement at the close of the Yugoslav guest's visit that the talks were very successful and important. He said Libyan-Yugoslav relations were of 'strategic importance.'

The Yugoslav president told the press he was very pleased with the visit and believed 'it will mark a turning point in all domains of our mutual relations and, I am convinced, in international affairs too.'

The Yugoslav and Libyan sides presented practically identical views on many of the topics discussed, in particular the causes and consequences of the 28-month war in Bosnia-Herzegovina and possibilities for ending it.

Al-Qadhdhafi said the former Yugoslavia had been broken up as a result of an international conspiracy.

'The aim of the conspiracy is to destroy both the Moslems and the Serbs. It is, therefore, in their interest to live in a unified Yugoslavia,' al-Qadhdhafi said.

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The Libyan leader said the conspiracy involving Bosnia-Herzegovina was both of a religious and political nature.

'It is a conspiracy aimed against Yugoslavia. It is a reckoning with Yugsolavia. Europe has decided to sacrifice that country. If Europe wants to destroy the Moslems, it will do so through Yugoslavia. In order to destroy them (Moslems), it has destroyed the entire Yugoslavia, it has broken up a country.'

Al-Qadhdhafi reiterated that 'the best solution for the Moslems in Bosnia is a unified Yugoslavia.' He said the persecution of the Moslems and 'religious cleansing' meant the destruction of Yugoslavia.

The Libyan leader said he did not believe that the United States was 'protecting Islam in Europe.'

'If Islam which is protected by America does exist, we renounce it. America is not a friend of the Bosnian Moslems, and the West hates people of the Eastern Orthodox faith,' al-Qadhdhafi said.

The Yugoslav president said that 'neither Serbs nor Moslems have started the war in Bosnia. It was started by the international community through a conspiracy aimed against all peoples on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. However, both Serbs and Moslems must stop that war in the interest of both peoples.'

The Libyan leader said he had presented his stand on the crisis in the former Yugoslavia, including the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, to foreign minister of the Moslem-Croat federation in Bosnia, Irfan Ljubijankic. Ljubijankic delivered a message to al-Qadhdhafi from Bosnian Moslem leader Alija Izetbegovic in Tripoli two days ago. The Yugoslav president was accompanied on the visit to Libya by Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister Nikola Sainovic and Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic.

Edition Withdrawn for Attacking Arab Politicians

LD2707163594 Tripoli JANA in English 1453 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Tripoli, Nasser [July] 27, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Today's issue of the revolutionary committees movement 'AL-ZAHAF AL- AKHDAR' newspaper, issue 1182, dated the 27th of Nasser, was withdrawn because it featured an article which attacked certain Arab political figures.

Morocco

Minister Azziman Urges 'Human Rights Culture'

LD2707133594 Rabat MAP in English 1248 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Rabat, July 27 (MAP)—The evolution of the issue of human rights in Morocco, crowned by the royal amnesty granted to 424 detainees, including 11 political prisoners, will lead to a social consecration of a 'human rights culture' in the Moroccan society, said Moroccan Human Rights Minister [delegate to the prime minister] Omar Azziman. In a press conference held Tuesday in Rabat, the minister said to overcome definitively some problems, Morocco should address the situation from the ground up and argued that school programs should be adapted to the concept of human rights in their most global and deepest approach.

The minister also recalled the set of concrete actions undertaken in the field of human rights mainly the ones related to the revision of the constitution and the creation of the Human Rights Consultative Council, the Constitutional Council and the ministry in charge of human rights. Concerning the social integration of the amnestied people, Azziman said these persons will enjoy all their citizenship rights as the royal grace abrogates all effects of judiciary decisions.

Talking about the missing people, the minister said 90 pc of these cases dates back to the 50's, 60's and 70's, a fact which makes it difficult to trace back these individuals, of which more than a half disappeared because of decease or choose to move abroad.

The minister also explained that Morocco's relations with Amnesty International are 'natural' and added that his department is making huge efforts to defend human rights of Moroccan citizens living abroad and those of the Moroccan populations sequestered in the Tindouf camps.

On the cases of Abdassalam Yassine, leader of an unauthorized association, and Abraham Serfaty, he explained that the two issues fall within a different context as the first was the object of an administrative decision and is therefore not 'a political detainee' while the second was expelled. He added that these two persons have submitted their case to the Supreme Court.

Sudan

SPLM Statement Announces Cease-Fire in South

MM2707150094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Kamal Hamid and Sulayman Salim: "Sudan: Garang Announces Cease-fire in South"]

[Excerpt] Nairobi, Cairo, AL-HAYAH—The Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] led by Colonel John Garang yesterday announced a cease-fire three days after the cease-fire announced by the Sudanese Government.

In a statement, a copy of which AL-HAYAH received in Nairobi yesterday, it stressed that its forces had received orders to observe a cease-fire as of midnight on Monday [25 July]. And "not to fight except in self-defense." The statement, which is signed by Baghan Amum, the movement's spokesman in the current peace negotiations in the Kenyan capital, excluded "moving targets from the

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cease-fire, because the government used cease-fire in the past to reinforce its positions, set up new barracks, and attack SPLM positions."

The movement said that "in order to guarantee a real cease-fire, we call for international observation of the cease-fire so as to investigate any allegations that it has been violated." It pointed out that the Sudanese Government "has not observed the cease-fire it announced and continued to attack the movement's positions in Aswa and has burned the refugee camps in Kajo Kaji, Kabwita [as transliterated], and Mugale."

The movement urged the mediators in the peace negotiations to ascertain the truth about the situation and identify the quarter violating the cease-fire. It also asked relief workers to return to the border city of Nimule and other affected areas.

Amum told AL-HAYAH yesterday that the government Army "has not stopped firing for a single moment. It attacked our forces in Nimule four times but failed and suffered heavy losses after crossing River Aswa and walking into ambushes and minefields."

With regard to the peace talks, negotiation sessions have not so far produced any progress. The parties continue to adhere to their positions on the relationship between religion and state, which the meeting began to discuss on Monday. The two wings of the SPLM insist on stipulating that the Sudanese state is secular, while the government delegation continues to reject this. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Optimistic About Peace Talks

EA2707203094 Khartoum SUNA in English 1705 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Jul (SUNA)—President of the Republic Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir has affirmed that the government is working to solve the south problem peacefully, describing the peace process as long and complicated. Interviewed by the Pakistani international affairs magazine, President al-Bashir expressed optimism that the current round of peace talks would achieve better results than the previous ones, indicating that the government seeks to overcome the problem in a shorter time.

Gen. al-Bashir said in the interview, which was published on 25 July, that the Sudanese opposition abroad is lacking the popular support, describing it as worthless and disconnected with the country's issues.

He said wherever a conference of Sudan was held the opposition elements rushed to take part in it, last of which was the suspected conference held in Germany and which was boycotted even by the Germans themselves because it was sponsored by an extremist church organization.

Al-Mahdi Supporters Pledge Allegiance to Government

EA2707203994 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 2245 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] The masses of the Ansar [supporters of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the Mahdi Religious Brotherhood] renewed their pledge of allegiance to Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the Republic, at a big ceremony at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said in his speech that the Ansar masses had rallied around the revolution since its outset because they had found in the revolution the course of the imam al-Mahdi. He pointed out that the Ansar are well known for their true orientation. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir added that the citizens of Aba Island represented all the tribes of Sudan because the island was the blessed spot of imam al-Mahdi in that it witnessed his first victory of hoisting the banner: There is no God but God. Therefore, all the people of Sudan rallied around it.

The leader of the revolution affirmed that the revolution was striving to unify all the people of Sudan and to spread education in rural Koranic schools, schools and universities, provide health services, and unleash the energies of the citizen by relying on himself. He added that internal and external conspiracies did not prevent Sudan from proceeding with its orientation. His excellency commended the masses of the Ansar for standing behind the revolution and called on them to work for the development and advancement of the country.

Mr. Abdullah Deng Nhial, governor of White Nile State, spoke about and confirmed the stance of the Ansar masses behind the revolution. Mr. Ibrahim Ali Mahjub, commissioner of al-Jabalayn Province, also spoke about and affirmed the stance of the Ansar. He confirmed their condemnation of the sabotage conspiracy. Mr. al-Fadil Ibrahim, chairman of the local council and representative of the Ansar, spoke about and declared the clear Ansar stance towards the recent conspiracy which was planned by a group from the dissolved Ummah Party. He enumerated the gains achieved by the Ansar in the era of the National Salvation Revolution.

Parties Agree To Form Subcommittee

EA2807073094 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1740 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Jul (SUNA)—Agreement was reached today in the evening session of the peace negotiations between the government's delegation and the two delegations of the rebel movement Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] and SPLA-United under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development mediation committee to form a subcommittee to discuss a suitable (?mechanism) through which the citizens of the south will be given the chance to express their constitutional and political choice after the transitional period.

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A report by SUNA from Nairobi said that the subcommittee was chaired by Seyoum Mesfin, the Ethiopian foreign minister. It comprises, from the government side, Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj, minister at the Federal Rule Office, and Mrs. Agnes Lokudu [governor of] Bahr al-Jabal State. Garang's group is represented in the committee by (Peter Nyuot) and (Bagan Amum), and the Unified group by Dhol Achuil and (Peter Swan). The report added that the committee would continue its work throughout today.

Today's round of negotiations began at 1500 to give the delegations a greater opportunity for consultation about the points submitted so far for discussion.

Tunisia

President Discusses Key Issues Facing Country

MM2707111094 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 27 Jul 94 p III from Supplement devoted to Tunisia

[Interview with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali by Roger Matthews, date and place not given]

[Text] [Question] On the threat posed to Tunisia if Islamic fundamentalists come to power in Algeria? [as published]

[Answer] Of course, it could pose some difficulties for us. But it would not be a real threat. In some ways, it is like a sickness. If you are healthy and strong, then you will not be infected. We have a healthy body, so we have to reason to fear anything.

[Question] On the causes of fundamentalism?

[Answer] First, it is important to make clear that to some extent fundamentalism was of our own making, and was at one time encouraged in order to combat the threat of communism. Such groups were fostered in the universities and elsewhere at that time in order to offset the communists and to strike a balance. This is not really going back to the roots of the issue, but is one aspect of it.

This phenomenon has also spread in some regions, not primarily because of religious reasons, but because of social and economic causes, especially where there have been pockets of poverty. Basically it is a socio-economic problem.

[Question] How Tunisia has approached the problem?

[Answer] Our approach has been multi-dimensional and we have avoided making only a security response, although of course we have applied the law. We have adopted policies which tackle the economic and social problems, by taking care of the poorer regions and helping the poorest section of society. We have tried to go to the roots of the problem.

My background in the military and security has provided me with a rich experience in understanding the problem. For example, when in the past there was demonstrations on the streets it was noticeable that the protesters attacked the outward symbols of wealth. They threw stones at Mercedes limousines and at luxury villas and houses. They showed their resentment at the rich.

This was evidence that the real origin of the protests was social. It would take hours to explain the full reasons for the phenomenon. I have been aware of it since the 1970s and I was the first to write a paper on the subject of fundamentalists and the danger they posed to the government here.

[Question] The role of democracy?

[Answer] In Algeria, the government sought to introduce a ready-made model of democracy. But what is really important is what the people understand by democracy. For example, in November 1987, two days after I had become president, the minister of the interior told me that people who said they were homeless had tried to invade some newly-constructed buildings.

They said that they had the right to invade them because under a democracy everyone had a right to a house. That was their understanding of democracy. It shows that the development of democracy is very much a matter of education and of progressing step by step.

This approach does not mean there is no freedom of justice. Doing it by stages means first introducing it at the level of the schools and to avoid making wrong steps. In this we are being successful. Democracy is a matter of mentality and a way of life. People have to be taught.

Democracy is an overall concept. It is not just politics but also health care, housing an the right to a job. There cannot be democracy without development, and there cannot be development without democracy. But freedom of expression alone does not necessarily bring jobs and drinking water for the people.

If people are not mentally prepared for democracy it could be a catastrophe. The examples elsewhere in the world are obvious. The fundamentalist are basically the enemies of democracy. They struggle take people back to the Middle Ages and the days of the Islamic caliphate. Where is the democracy in that?

According to the laws and constitution of Tunisia, there is no room for religious parties. They will never happen here. We shall never embark on this course. It would be a catastrophe for this country and its people if we were ever to give permission for the formation of a religious party.

As long as I am here, as president or not, I will continue to combat the creation of a religious party. That is my conviction.

[Question] Tunisia's links with Europe, the Arab world and north Africa?

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[Answer] Tunisia's natural environment is constituted first by the Maghreb, then by the Arab world. To deny this would be to deny our very identity. But it is also true that Tunisia has always been linked economically with Europe, which is our major supplier of equipment and technology and our favored partner in the commercial domain.

What is more, Tunisia is one of the favourite destinations of European tourists. But these days there is also less room for co- operation among single countries alone. Instead they are very much coming to be seen as part of larger groupings. So we are trying to co-operate with the Maghreb Union, which adds extra weight to our co-operation with the EU [European Union].

[Question] On establishing full diplomatic relations with Israel?

[Answer] Tunisia has unfailingly provided our Palestinian brothers and sisters with active support for the re-establishment of their legitimate national rights. Our relief and optimism at the signing of agreements between the PLO and Israel were felt all the more strongly because of the considerable contribution we made. It appears that the Palestinian problem is on the path to a lasting political solution. But we cannot say the problem has been truly solved until the Palestinians have recovered all their legitimate rights. We will avoid making any hasty decisions that might compromise their interests, and at the same time we will continue to provide our full support for the peace process.

[Question] On the future of Tunisia?

[Answer] Previously an underdeveloped country, we have been successful in getting to the intermediate stage and it is my ambition that we should be a member of the family of democratic nations. That is a political decision. I have been urging Tunisians to work harder. Now I am urging them to work better in order to catch up with the developed countries, to be competitive with them, especially in the event of there being a free trade zone with the European Union. We have to enhance the quality of our goods. Whoever consumers what he does not produce is not truly independent.

Portuguese Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

LD2707164594 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Portuguese Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Durao Barroso arrived in Tunisia this afternoon on a two-day official visit to our country at the invitation of his counterpart, Mr. Habib Ben Yahia. In a statement he made to Tunis Afrique Presse in the VIP lounge of Tunis-Carthage International Airport, the head of the Portuguese diplomacy highlighted the tangible development in the Tunisian-Portuguese relations in the past few years, particularly since President Zine El Abidine's state visit to Portugal last year. He described that visit as an historic event in the relations between the two countries.

The Portuguese foreign affairs minister added that there are indeed a number of initiatives that highlight the significant depth of Tunisian-Portuguese ties. He talked, in this respect, about the numerous meetings he has had with his counterpart, Mr. Habib Ben Yahia, both at the bilateral level, and within the framework of international conferences.

Regarding economic cooperation, Mr. Barroso indicated that although some progress has been achieved more needs to be done, particularly at the level of the relations between Tunisia and the European Union to which Portugal is affiliated. Moreover, the Portuguese minister added that his country attaches great importance to deepening the political dialogue between Tunis and Lisbon in view of the excellent relations existing between the two countries. He further said that all the conditions are there to enable the two countries to increase the exchange of their viewpoints on the major issues concerning the region, whether as regards the Arab Maghreb, Europe, or the Mediterranean region as a whole. Tunisian diplomacy has, he said, demonstrated its competence on these issues.

Mr. Barroso pointed out that his talks with Tunisian officials will also cover African issues, especially as Tunisia is the current chairman of the Organization of African Unity and Portugal has a huge experience in African affairs. [passage omitted]

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Kuwait

Jordanian, Palestinian Peace Moves Criticized

JN2707170094 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 23 Jul 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Facts Force Themselves"]

[Text] The Israeli Government might feel it has made significant breakthroughs on the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks of the negotiations, and managed to consecrate unilateral deals and partial solutions. Worse still, it might enlist international and regional pressure to tighten the noose around Syria in a bid to isolate it and achieve a more stunning breakthrough. Nonetheless, if it attempts this, Israel will soon find that it is miscalculating and nursing delusions. Those who fell into the trap of separate deals and hastened to obtain crumbs are insignificant people who cannot make a difference with regard to the conflict. The equation of the conflict is nurtured by steadfastness along the frontlines, a status that has been demonstrated by Syria in various ways, although guns and tanks have not been used.

Hence, the Israeli Government has acknowledged the facts consecrated by the firm Syrian position, and the determination of a historic leadership that realizes that a flawed peace is bound to be dishonorable.

Israel will not be doing the Arabs a favor if it returns their rights, which are enshrined in the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy. Likewise, the international community will not act to establish peace in this strategic part of the world just to uphold human values. Concrete facts are forcing changes on the international scene. These changes dictate the dismantlement of the occupation, as well as the revocation of racist policies. The Syrian leadership is well aware of this. That is why it has demonstrated a determination to achieve an honorable peace, a peace that restores the territories, but does not confiscate will and destiny.

The Israeli Government has considered as a concession its acknowledgement of Syrian sovereignty on the Golan. Nonetheless, it cannot make a different claim. This Israeli acknowledgement of Syrian sovereignty on the Golan shows it is taking a step backwards, thanks to its clash of wills with Syria. Still, this step backwards will be followed by other steps.

The U.S. secretary of state is carrying, up his sleeve, a plan for unconditional withdrawal from parts of the Golan in order to make some room for discussions on normalization. But, Israel will find once again that it has not done enough to obtain peace, which has to be just and comprehensive. Such a peace must rob the Zionist plan of its essence and dangerous implications, namely, its expansionist drive, as well as the desire to control the Arab nation's resources.

Saudi Arabia

Daily Notes Bombings 'Will Not Halt Peace March'

MM2807082694 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 22 Jul 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Violence...a Losing Tactic!"]

[Text] All the acts of violence dominating the region or outside it as an echo of its events are bound not to be planned by governments. Because the beneficiary is looking for a role through various means conflicting with the aims of governments. However, this does not negate the fact that some of the parties exercising opposition for its own sake are capable of infiltrating security barriers and providing legitimate interpretation of violence to serve their own interests....

If the Arabs and Israel are currently seeking to bring about a moderate atmosphere in their relations and to renounce means of violence under any specific pressure, this is not a state of relaxation or temporary truce. Because these means have granted full success to neither in defeating the other. Peace could be the more stable and cooperative way to fill the abyss of past years.

The Argentine capital incident should not be interpreted outside this context. Because Palestinian officials, who have condemned it, admit that these methods serve no one nor can they obstruct the peace march. So it is an action conflicting with what is prevalent in the region, namely the efforts to surmount suspicion and to coexist in a manner that achieves trust and cooperation.

It is natural for the incident to provoke an exchange of accusations among various parties, but this is bound to make those who resorted to violence as a means to let off steam the winners. It will result in matters going beyond their realistic context, legal prosecution being resorted to, and tough sentences being passed on the perpetrator, though still far below the huge material and moral losses. And perhaps the mistakes made in recent decades—which are associated with the peace principle not as a political slogan but as an inevitable reality and definite conduct—prove that violence is a losing tactic and a pretext for those seeking to confuse the issues and mobilize suppressed feelings.

Numerous peoples have been liberated by the legitimate means of struggle, but their governments or organizations did not kill, hit peaceful locations, or seek to inflame feelings or emotions. Because the principle of dialogue and acceptance of the other side, no matter how wide the circle of hostility, is bound to bring about solutions leading to good results.

We conclude that the bombing incident does not serve the Arabs, nor does it harm Israel's security, nor will it halt the peace march. Because all the pretexts the perpetrator—whether an organization or individuals—has offered remain outside reality. Proof of this is that those dealing with the situation in the region or outside it have remained coherent—which confirms that violence is a losing tactic not capable of changing fixed matters, whatever the pretexts and the aims.

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Yemen

Council of Ministers Ends State of Emergency

JN2807104294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held a meeting under acting Prime Minister Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar yesterday. It discussed the progress toward implementing the decisions which were made during the meetings held in Aden, the economic and commercial capital. It also listened to reports submitted by the brother ministers on the progress of their tasks designed to address the repercussions of the sedition fomented by the rebels, repair the damaged facilities and installations, particularly those linked to citizens' daily life, and rehabilitate these installations so they will optimally render their services to citizens, in addition to the efforts made to entrench security and stability.

In this regard, the council lauded the efforts made by the Interior Ministry's command and cadres and the Defense Ministry's command to spread security and tranquility among citizens. This has returned life to normal in a record time. The council also hailed the efforts being made by the brother governor of Aden, his assistants, and the brother governors in Lahij, Abyan, Shabwah, Hadhramaut, and other areas.

In light of the current stability in our country, the council decided to end the state of emergency and take the necessary arrangements in this regard. It stressed the need to strictly observe order and law and firmly punish anyone who breaches security and order in accordance with the valid laws.

The council also approved passing a special law authorizing the government to circulate financial securities in order to reconstruct what was damaged by the rebels who violated the legitimacy. This issue requires the provision of funds in addition to the funds obtained from the state's general budget in a way that will not burden the general budget. The council asked the Finance Ministry and the Central Bank of Yemen to prepare a bill as a prelude to discussing and quickly finalizing the necessary constitutional procedures.

The council also listened to a report on property lost by the public or private institutions as a result of the subversive acts and looting in the past phase, and made the following decision:

1. All property which is now in the possession of institutions or citizens other than its original owners, is the property of its original owners, so any disposal of this property by the persons now possessing it by means of selling, purchasing, donating, or other ways will be regarded as a null and void from the religious and legal viewpoints. Those who carry out such acts will be subjected to punishment.

2. Anyone possessing lost property should hand it over to the party from which it was taken if such a party is known to him, or he should notify the nearest official circle in his area.

3. All selling and purchasing agencies and offices throughout the Republic should verify the documents of transactions and notify the competent authorities about any suspect missing or looted property. Anyone violating this will be subjected to legal punishment.

4. A committee will be set up from the Interior Ministry and the political security to investigate and search for missing property throughout the Republic. It will take the necessary measures to regain this property and hand it over to its original owners.

The council was briefed on a report submitted by the brother foreign minister on closing the Yemeni file at the Security Council after removing all the justifications which prompted some sides to submit it to the Security Council.

The Council of Ministers emphasized that the principle of dialogue among all political forces is one of the constant national principles which were unanimously agreed by the Yemeni people, and that the fighting was only imposed on our people. It also stressed that if dialogue is to achieve its objectives, it should be held away from any foreign influence, and should be held in the homeland as part of the constitutional legitimacy stemming from the 27 April elections and also as part of the valid laws and through the constitutional institutions. [passage omitted]

South Leaders Postpone Meeting, Await Geneva Result

NC2807063794 Paris AFP in English 2200 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Dubai, July 28 (AFP)—Exiled southern Yemeni leaders have postponed a meeting to discuss their political future in order to await the outcome of this week's reconciliation talks with northern leaders in Geneva, southern officials said Wednesday [27 July].

"The meeting has been put back to August to await the Geneva meeting" which starts Thursday, a southern leader told AFP by telephone from the United Arab Emirates where he fled at the end of Yemen's civil war.

Another leader sheltering in Saudi Arabia said the postponed meeting "will take place in Damascus or in any other Arab capital."

Salim Salih Muhammad, a southern Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) official, said Saturday that exiled YSP leaders would meet "in the next 48 hours" in Syria to discuss the party's "future political activities."

Sixteen of the YSP's 22 politburo members fled abroad after southern troops were defeated by northern forces loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on July 7.

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Yemen's Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, a northerner, and the breakaway south's appointed prime minister Haydar 'Abu-Bakr al-'Attas are to meet Thursday in Geneva under the auspices of UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi.

They will discuss the prospects of national reconciliation in the wake of the two-month civil war.

Meanwhile a southern newspaper reappeared on the streets of Aden Tuesday for the first time since northern forces seized the city on July 7.

The daily's former editorial managers had been replaced by a team close to northern authorities, though most of its staff had been kept on.

The paper printed on its front page a message from Salih saying he was confident the paper's management would contribute to Yemeni "unity."

War broke out between Salih's forces and those of his southern rival 'Ali Salim al-Bid on May 5. The south declared a breakaway state on May 21.

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'Secret Talks' With Israel Alleged Underway

NC2707145394 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] According to well-informed Palestinian sources, secret talks are underway between the Iraqi ruling regime and Israel. The exchanges have been going on for a long time with the full knowledge of the United States. Their aim is to normalize ties between the two sides.

Anti-Israeli rhetoric in the regime's media has remarkably abated. Key officials in the Clinton administration support the scheme, according to the same sources.

U.S. Airspace 'Violations' Spur Protest

JN2707171594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] New York, 27 Jul (INA)—Iraq has once again addressed a letter to the UN secretary general on U.S. and allied airspace violations for purposes of surveillance and provocation.

In his letter yesterday, Iraq's permanent UN representative said during the period 10-22 July, U.S. and allied planes mounted 544 aggressive sorties all over Iraq. He added that U.S. planes also flew reconnaissance missions over many regions in Iraq and dropped flares on Ninawa Governorate.

German Experts Investigating 'Depleted Uranium'

JN2707140194 Baghdad INA in English 0940 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, July 27, INA—A team of three German experts are now in Baghdad to investigate the matter of depleted Uranium ammunition used by the so-called allied forces during the U.S.-led war against Iraq in 1991. They took urine samples from Iraqi children to see if there is a link to the poison of the depleted uranium. The samples will be examined in Germany, head of the team Professor Siegwart Gunther stated.

The team also took part in the medical symposium held recently in Baghdad.

Dr. Gunther, who is head of the Yellow Cross International, brought a large quantity of medicine to the people of Iraq who are suffering from severe shortages of medicine due to the sanctions. Unfortunately, another donation of half-tonne medicines have been stolen from Dr. Gunther in Berlin, Germany. "I felt that two persons are following me, then my car loaded with half a tonne of medicine, a suitcase that contains my passport and some documents and stole them. [sentence as received] However, German police, in fact, have not offered much help", he said.

As for his participation in the two-day medical symposium, Professor Gunther who is a doctor of infectious diseases and epidemiology, spoke about the dangers of the radioactivity of the uranium wastes. He said that depleted uranium penetrators were extensively used for the first time during the U.S.-led war against Iraq in 1991, with impressive results.

Some 40 tonnes of depleted uranium would have been left behind on the battle fields between Iraq and Kuwait, mostly in form of toxic and radioactive dust. Much of it has been scattered about thousands of square miles of desert, carried by wind several hundreds of kilometres. As the Gulf region has a raining season, it is to be feared that uranium particles get at one time or the other into the ground water and finally reach the food chain. Highly toxic uranium dust if included, can result in lung cancer, he explained.

He added that many depleted uranium projectiles spread over the battle fields have been collected by children and used as toys with possible devastating consequences. "N found on the 7th of May 1991 on the highway between Baghdad and Amman, in the desert, projectiles in the form and size of a cigar, which retain my attention because of their unusual appearance and weight. [sentence as received] In that region columns of refugees, aid transports and others had been submitted to attack by planes equipped with this type of ammunitions", he said.

It prompted me, he added, to let one bullet be analysed by German institutions. The bullet under examination exhibited a radioactivity of 11 microsivert per hour and was highly toxic. "Since 1991, I have been constantly warning about the depleted uranium danger, unfortunately at that time only few people believed me, he commented.

Right now one hears about odd ailments among Gulf war U.S. veterans which could possibly be attributed to contact with depleted uranium, he said.

He went on to say that this subject has been finally brought out for debate referring to a number of reports related to this matter including a recent one made by John Miller, coordinator of the international clearing house on the military and the environment.

He quoted the report as saying that there is enough uranium in Kuwait and southern Iraq to cause "500,000 potential deaths." People in the Gulf region who lived for months under the cloud of smoke from oil well fires face a long term additional airborne hazard from uranium particles.

The report added that the depleted uranium spread around the battlefield and target vehicles in sizes and quantities from dust particles to full size penetrators and shot. [sentence as received] It would be unwise for people to stay close to large quantities of depleted uranium for long periods and would obviously be of concern to the local population if they collect this heavy metal and keep it.

There will be specific area in which many rounds will have been fired localized contamination of vehicles and

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soil may exceed permissible limits and these could be hazardous to both clean up teams and the local population.

Professor Gunther has been awarded medals and certificates of merit by various countries for his humanitarian efforts. The Polish Academy of Medicine recently gave Professor Gunther the Golden Medal (Medicus Magnus) that is granted for outstanding merits for the development and humanisation of the medicine.

The medal is confined only to five prominent doctors in the world, once a year. "It is the symbol of the gratitude for those who create the lasting values and who have found their place in the history and human hearts and minds", read the Polish certificate.

'First' Group Arrives To Visit Since Gulf War

JN2707202094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 27 Jul (INA)—A Pakistan Airways airliner carrying a large group of Pakistani passengers landed at al-Habbaniyah Airoprt this afternoon. The group, who will be visiting holy sites in Iraq, includes a high level delegation led by Mr. Mahmud A. Harun, the governor of Sind Province.

On hand to greet the plane—the first to have landed in an Iraqi airport with visitors to Iraq since the treacherous 30-state aggression—were Ahmad Murtada Ahmad, minister of transport and communications; 'Abd-al-Mun'im Ahmad Salih, minister of Awqaf and religious affairs; 'Abd-al-Wahhab Dhu-al-nun, under secretary at the Interior Ministry; and a number of officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Transport and Communications, and Aawqaf and Religious Affairs.

Mr. Harun told INA he was glad to be visiting Iraq and hoped relations between Iraq and Pakistan will grow tighter. Harun indicated that a large number of Pakistanis would like to visit Iraq and call at the tombs of the chaste imams. [passage omitted]

Saddam Receives Indonesian Envoy, Letter

JN2707195194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received 'Alim Shah Ratu Biruira Nivara [name as received], personal envoy of Indonesian President Suharto. The Indonesian envoy delivered a letter to President Saddam Husayn from General Suharto. Nivara also conveyed the greetings of the Indonesian president and people to President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people, stressing that the Indonesian Government and people stand by Iraq, that they are concerned about the impact of the blockade on the Iraqi people, and that the Indonesian president, in his capacity as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, is eager to continue efforts to lift the unjust blockade still imposed on Iraq, although it has met all its obligations stipulated in the Security Council's resolutions.

The Indonesian president's envoy clarified that the chairmanship of the movement is continuing to implement the resolutions of the 10th Conference of the Nonaligned Movement summit meeting, particularly those pertaining to strengthening cooperation and solidarity among the movement's member states.

The president asked the envoy of General Suharto to convey his greetings, his best wishes, and the greetings of the Iraqi people to his brother, the Indonesian president, and to the friendly Muslim Indonesian people.

Envoy Meets Foreign, Trade Ministers

JN2707202394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf today received ('Alim Shah), envoy of Indonesian President General Suharto to leader President Saddam Husayn.

They exchanged views on efforts currently under way by Indonesia in its capacity as a friendly country and current chairman of the Nonaligned Movement to bring a rapid end to the unfair sanctions clamped on Iraq.

The foreign minister thoroughly explained Iraq's clear stand in terms of its handling of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and its compliance with the provisions enshrined in these resolutions.

('Alim Shah) expressed the Indonesian president's firm desire to continue his efforts to lift the unfair sanctions clamped on Iraq.

The talks were attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi and the Indonesian ambassador to Iraq. Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih also met with ('Alim Shah). They reviewed trade and economic bilateral ties.

Ramadan Goes to Yemen To Extend 'Congratulations'

JN2707141894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jul (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan, envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to his brother Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, has left Baghdad for Sanaa.

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency, Taha Yasin Ramadan said he will relay the congratulations of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to his brother President Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, as well as those of the Iraqi leadership and people to the Yemeni leadership and the fraternal Yemeni people on the victory for unity scored against the secessionists, which has brought the situation back to normal in united Yemen.

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Ramadan noted that his excellency the president instructed that the Iraqi expertise used to rebuild what the evildoers destroyed in Iraq is placed at the disposal of the fraternal Yemenis in order to rebuild Yemeni facilities damaged in battles waged against the secessionists.

The vice president said the victory for unity realized against the secessionists in fraternal Yemen is a victory for the Arab nation, and proves its vitality, strength, and adherence to principles. This victory resulted in the downfall of the renegade secessionists, and the defeat of traitorous Arab rulers who supplied them with arms, equipment, and pilots, Ramadan said.

Ramadan said events in Yemen have unmasked the treasonous role some Arab rulers play against the Arab nation, and their pursuit of a colonialist-Zionist policy.

The envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn said he will discuss with Yemeni leaders bilateral ties and means of promoting and expanding them.

Ramadan Receives Allegiance Document From Syrians

JN2807072594 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 21 Jul 94 p 4

[Text] On behalf of leader President Saddam Husayn, Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has received a document of allegiance to the leader president from Syrians working in Iraq on the 26th anniversary of the 17-30 July Revolution. The document was delivered by a delegation representing these workers during a meeting with the vice president.

Taha Yasin Ramadan expressed leader President Saddam Husayn's thanks for this initiative and his appreciation of the Arab brothers' stands and continuous struggle against all policies which try to undermine the present and future of the Arab nation.

The vice president added that the arena of the masses' struggle is the entire area of the Arab homeland, because the battle against the enemies of the Arab nation is a battle for the common Arab destiny and the existence and future of the Arabs.

The delegation representing the Syrians affirmed its pride in the wise leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn and the Arab masses' support for his revolutionary leadership which struggles to defend Arab honor, existence, and destiny.

Saddam Chairs Meeting on UNSC, 'Aziz Visits

JN2707161494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jul (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has presided over a meeting attended by several members of the Revolution Command Council and comrade members of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

During the meeting, the conferees listened to a report submitted by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz on his visit to Russia, the recent UN Security Council [UNSC] session, and his visit to Greece.

The conferees expressed satisfaction with the visit to Russia by the deputy prime minister. They also appreciated the clear and unequivocal Russian stand articulated both in Russia and at the UNSC, which underlined the legal and proper interpretation of the relevant UNSC resolutions, as well as the need for the UNSC to comply with its own resolutions in return for the compliance with these resolutions demonstrated by the countries concerned.

The conferees also expressed their appreciation of the positions of other UNSC members, such as the PRC, France, Brazil, Spain, Nigeria, and other countries, which have acknowledged the progress Iraq has made in its compliance with the relevant UNSC resolutions, and stated that this obliges the UNSC to reciprocate for this compliance by fulfilling its own obligations.

The conferees urged these countries, and all UNSC members, for that matter, to underscore the legal interpretation of the relevant UNSC resolutions, and to shun political whims. They also emphasized the need for the UNSC to fulfill its obligations toward Iraq per the very UNSC resolutions passed against it, particularly those regarding lifting the economic sanctions and the immediate implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 without any additional conditions or strings attached.

Additionally, the conferees voiced satisfaction with the outcome of the deputy prime minister's visit to Greece, and underscored the importance of resuming the traditional ties of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and Greece.

Cabinet Discusses Organizational, Economic Issues

JN2707195894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1825 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired the 12th session of the Council of Ministers. The council discussed agenda topics, including organizational and economic issues, and approved proposals to expand the storage of grain due to a production increase in various governorates.

The council approved new instructions to organize the work of money exchange companies to enable them to promote their performance and extend better services.

Paper Attacks Arab Rulers, Thrones

JN2807085394 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 21 Jul 94 pp 1, 5

[Editorial: "Our Nation Rises Anew"]

[Text] From the position of firmness, jihad, and confidence in himself and his capabilities; and, from the position of belief in his nation, principles, and sound course, the historical leader of the nation Saddam

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Husayn addressed the masses of the Arab nation on the 26th anniversary of the 17-30 July Revolution.

The masses of the Arab nation hold the belief, which is rooted in experience and past lessons, that the leadership of the national awakening and liberation plan has been decided forever in favor of the commander of the Mother of Battles and the symbol of the Arabs; Saddam Husayn, leader of al-Ba'th, Iraq, and the Arabs, who embodies every aspiration and raises the banner of the message in the most difficult times without being deterred by all the armies of the enemies and all their capabilities to do political, economic, psychological, and military harm.

During the weeks of the 30-state military aggression and in the months before and after that aggression, the masses of our Arab nation have become convinced that targeting Iraq has been, and is still, an attempt to target all their legitimate aspirations and par rab aims, the sovereignty of their land, and the freedom of their sons. All the developments taking place at present confirm this. The imperialist-Zionist aggression stood helpless before the strong gates of Iraq, and it was only able to get that far after imposing its control over the thrones of the lackeys who had been leaning toward the Zionist plans since the turn of the century.

There is not a single faithful Arab who does not understand now the real aims behind the destruction, the blockade, and the impoverishment of Iraq. This is clear from the collapse of those rulers who delayed handing over the keys to their countries' decision-making and sovereignty, to their American and Zionist masters, until they were sure they would be rid of mighty Iraq.

But Iraq has triumphed over death by survival and over destruction by reconstruction, and so the banner of pan-Arab principles has remained aloft in the right hand of the historic leader Saddam Husayn. The nation has not lost as much as it has gained. A clear vision, seen after the Mother of Battles, has told the whole truth and issued its historical sentences against all the tools and leaderships.

The collapse has only affected the lackeys. The Mother of Battles has affirmed the ability of the nation to remain steadfast and firm and to fight. Whenever there exists a leader who believes in his God, people, and rights, the alliance of the enemies fails to advance. Yemen is a new shining example to be added to the Iraqi beacon which guides the Arab nation to positions of dignity and struggle, as well as to their true selves and capabilities.

Indeed, the nation is rising anew along the pan-Arab course of struggle and faith, which is based on innovation and creativity under its own circumstances and within its own capabilities and time, thus surmounting all hardships with the resolve and determination of its sons in every country and location without hesitation or confusion and marching forward using the Mother of Battles, its principles, and great meanings of struggle and ability for endurance and as an example and model for the faithful. The leader has diagnosed the current state of Arab struggle and affirmed to all Arab strugglers that the correct stand and the historical course which have been taken for salvaging the nation is boundless in so far as equipping leaders and strugglers with the morale they need in the present circumstances in which the beasts of the earth are attacking our Arab nation.

According to this firm course, Saddam Husayn, the leader of Tammuz, al-Ba'th, Iraq, and the Arabs has worked out adequate formulas for pursuing a course of official action which does not conflict with popular struggle. Within this framework and away from revanchist tendencies and with full national and historical responsibility, leader President Saddam Husayn has again opened the door for the rulers and regimes which have adopted rancorous and malicious stands. He said: Whoever wants to save his soul from its diseases and is determined to rectify what has been impaired by those well-known circumstances, the doors of Iraq are still open for positive cooperation. The reassurance which is provided by a positive relationship within the Arab fold cannot be compensated by all the fleets and promises of the foreigners. The security which is provided by the nation is an honor while the protection which is provided by subservience to the enemy is a disgrace which will chase the living and the dead and their grandsons after them.

It is an invitation from the commander of the gathering of the faithful. It is a responsible pan-Arab call which stems from capability and firmness and after the aggression, the siege, and the plotting have failed to undermine Iraq's will, course, steadfastness, and firmness. It is a call in the interest of pan-Arab security and the region's stability. If some rulers continue to hand over the keys of their countries to the foreigner under false pretenses, the call of leader President Saddam Husayn is aimed at depriving those rulers of such excuses and exposing them before their peoples and the masses of the Arab nation as parties which relinquish sovereignty, Arabism, and honor for no reason other than the humility of their subservience and associations which have now been fully exposed.

The historic speech by the leader of Tammuz, the revolution, the people, the homeland, and the nation and the commander of the message, is a speech of confidence in the nation and its strugglers and in their abilities to formulate the future of the Arabs on the basis of their firmness in the most difficult circumstances. The hostile onslaught has reached its peak and is now receding. It is taking with it all the chaff, leaving on the land of the Arabs only true Arabs who carry with their historical leader Saddam Husayn the banner of Jihad, victory, dignity, and honor. He is the leader of the tried victory who holds the Arab sun in his right hand so it will not set and so its light will expose all the parties which are now known to the masses of the nation. This is the beginning of the end and the beginning of our victory which will not be far away.

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Peres Said 'Insulted' by Rabin, May Resign

TA2807103494 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Jul 94 pp 1, 15

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer and Nahum Barne'a]

[Excerpts] "I will not let him assail my dignity or my credibility ever again. I will not be slandered." These remarks were made by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres several minutes before his plane took off from Washington.

The summit meeting in Washington, which did wonders for Yitzhaq Rabin's image, was a drawn-out nightmare for the foreign minister. His face showed his sentiments as he spoke with YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondents before joining the prime minister's motorcade to the airport. Peres was so angry that he even implied he might resign from the cabinet. [passage omitted]

Peres was especially insulted by reports citing sources close to the prime minister on his insistence in joining Rabin on the Washington trip.

Peres said: "I am sick and tired of these things. I did not ask to go to Washington. I did not send messengers. I did not upstage anyone. I did not push myself into this trip. This is the most insulting thing. No one stood in his way as a star. Rabin was 'excluded' here. For two days, I 'excluded' him."

Peres refused to say whether his Washington relationship with Rabin would be carried on in Israel. In conversations with aides, he ruled out the possibility of an immediate reaction.

"I think some things are more important than I am," Peres told us. His aides were under the impression that he was pondering the possibility of announcing his resignation from the government. [passage omitted]

Peres Denies Rabin-al-Asad Meeting Suggestion

TA2807070894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by 'Anat Davidov; place not given—live]

[Text] [Davidov] Good morning, Foreign Minister Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Davidov] Could you confirm the report we have just heard about the proposal made by a senior Israeli official to President Mubarak to arrange a meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and President al-Asad under the auspices of President Clinton and with the participation of the leaders of the Arab countries?

[Peres] It is totally unfounded. The report is simply not true. I suppose I am the official in question because I met with President Mubarak. What I told him and have been reiterating for a long time, including when Secretary Christopher was here, is that the moment an agreement is reached with Syria and Lebanon the circle of belligerency and hatred in the Middle East will have been closed off. Therefore, this would not be an agreement signed by two countries but by the entire region. However, there was no such specific proposal as you reported.

[Davidov] Secretary of State Christopher is due in our region in 20 days. How do you foresee the negotiations with Syria evolving?

[Peres] I think the Syrians will wait a while to distance themselves from the event at the White House with King Husayn and to get farther away from the agreement with 'Arafat. I suppose they will not want to emulate the former or follow in the footsteps of the latter.

At the same time, I would like to note a few interesting points. The first is that Syrian reaction to the agreement with Jordan was moderate and restrained and did not contain the fury of their response to the agreement with 'Arafat. Secondly, and I also heard as much from Christopher and the U.S. President, the Syrians are very interested in pursuing the negotiations. Nevertheless, I foresee numerous difficulties and if they insist on certain minor, important, or less important matters, it will be very hard for us to reach an agreement.

[Davidov] Does that mean there has been a softening in President al-Asad's position?

[Peres] Yes, you could say that. However, a softening is not a breakthrough.

[Davidov] It has been two days since the signing of the Washington Declaration with Jordan. Sir, you often said that the only thing missing from a peace agreement with Jordan was a pen. How long do you think it will take before a final peace agreement is signed with Jordan in the wake of what was achieved in Washington?

[Peres] In my opinion, this is now less important. What is important now is to fill the papers we signed with content. One can sign papers saying that we will do this and that, but these call for funds and budgets. The U.S. Congress is very meticulous about every expenditure. Things are not that simple and are not yet in our pocket. There is still a lot of work to be done.

Our relations with Jordan have undergone a fundamental revolution. This has been my hope all my life. I feel that the Israeli people do not harbor the same bitterness and resentment toward Jordan that they have toward the PLO. The truth is that the Jordanians never engaged in personal terror. True, they took part in the war against us, just as Egypt did, but they did not evince terror, brutality, and ruthlessness. Our relations with Jordan were civilized and restrained, not turbulent, and that is why I thought the only thing missing was a pen. There is no other example in history of two nations in a state of war having open bridges, albeit only to Arabs,

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not to Jews. The very fact that we had open bridges amounted to a state of war with a wink.

I very much appreciate the king and think he is a serious and level-headed man. When evaluating a person, one must also assess his situation. He is surrounded by quite formidable neighbors, to put it mildly, and he has considerable domestic problems, including the problem of 300,000 refugees. I knew about those problems, and when I met him in London—and we parted on friendly terms—I sensed his relief at doing at long last the thing his grandfather wanted to do. Nevertheless, he realizes that the signing is not the end of the story.

[Davidov] Sir, were you also surprised by Husayn's declaring the end of the state of war rather than the end of the state of belligerency?

[Peres] I was surprised by it, but I was not surprised by his wisdom. He is one of those people who keep their decisions secret until the last minute. Incidentally, I always thought declaring the end of the state of belligerency was not sufficient and that something positive should be said, and I think what the king said largely fits what a person like myself hoped he would do.

[Davidov] One cannot avoid talking about terror in the world these days and about the preparedness of Israeli embassies and stepped-up security measures. What can you tell us on this issue?

[Peres] In a few minutes, I will preside over a meeting of Israel's ambassadors in Europe and will tell them: Do not stop your work. Work ceaselessly without fearing terror in order to expand Israel's ties in all political, economic, and scientific spheres. At the same time, current circumstances call for an unprecedented state of alert on their part. The job of an ambassador today entails quite a few risks, as well as great rewards. We will call on our colleagues to take all the necessary precautions.

[Davidov] Do you see this terror as a transient wave or as an ongoing situation?

[Peres] It is not a question of waves. One does not need a wave to kill; it is enough to have a gun, or a cell of three or four people. There is no doubt whatsoever that there are people who want to murder peace, and that their main headquarters is located in Tehran.

[Davidov] You are leaving for Cyprus this morning. What will you do there?

[Peres] I will be paying an official visit to Cyprus which was arranged a long time ago. There are a few non-Arab and non-Muslim countries in the Middle East, and we are very interested to resume our relations with them. I am talking of countries such as Cyprus, Malta, Eritrea, and Ethiopia. I plan to visit all of them and establish proper relations with them.

[Davidov] Mr. Peres, finally, could you tell us something about your feelings in Washington? How different was it for you than the agreement with the PLO?

[Peres] The agreement with the PLO was one of the most complex in the world. It may have been less prominent in terms of territory or magnitude, but in terms of complexity it involved a tough and almost insoluble situation.

Opinions vary about the agreement with the PLO. I would like to tell you: We made an unprecedented agreement with the PLO. We made an agreement that does not call for the removal of any settlement or settler, we took Jerusalem out of the picture, and we kept security issues in our hands. It was not so easy for the PLO to overcome all these. There was tension and resentment in the air. Nothing can be forgotten. We are only human, and the resentment we feel toward the PLO is not simple. It is the kind of pain that cannot be erased or forgotten. We made the agreement for the sake of the future, since the past cannot be changed.

The atmosphere in the meetings with the king was very civilized. The king came with a very impressive delegation, headed by al-Majali who is the prime minister and the foreign minister, and two or three other ministers. Their conduct was exemplary, restrained, and respectable. There were no leaks or slanders; it was exceptional.

[Davidov] Judging by what we saw here in Israel, Mr. Peres, you were not entirely pleased.

[Peres] I keep my personal feelings to myself, and I am not prepared to share them with the public.

[Davidov] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, thank you very much.

[Peres] You are welcome.

Peres Blames Tehran for 'Terrorist Attacks'

AU2807094094 Hamburg STERN in German 28 Jul 94 p 106

[Interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Shi'mon Peres by Mira Avrech; place and date not given: "We Must Smoke Them Out"]

[Text] [Avrech] There have been two bloody attacks on Israeli institutions in Buenos Aires within two years. Obviously, in both cases they were carried out by Hizballah, an organization that is controlled by Iran. Do you believe that the fundamentalists in Argentina are supported by right-wing extremist circles in the military?

[Peres] Why should I speculate about the Argentinians? However, obviously—and this is important for me—the terrorists have a base in Argentina, and we must smoke them out.

[Avrech] Mossad agents have gone to Argentina. Are they participating in combating the terrorists?

[Peres] No comment.

[Avrech] What does Israel want to do in general to prevent such attacks on Jewish institutions?

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[Peres] First of all, this is the task of the security forces in the individual countries. Israel can help, give warnings, and provide information, and we will continue to do so in the future.

[Avrech] What does Hizballah intend to achieve with its attacks?

[Peres] Hizballah is supported by Iran, and the Iranians have a sick ideology, as one can see in many things. They are the source of murder, terror, and attacks all over the world. Similar to the Communists in the past, the Iranians are following the motto "The end justifies the means." There are many countries that are aware of this fact, others take this more lightly. However, there is no doubt that many murderous terrorist attacks nowadays are to be credited to Tehran's account.

[Avrech] Is the attack on the Jewish center in Buenos Aires an act of revenge by Hizballah for the Israeli bombing of the positions of extremists in Lebanon or for the kidnapping of Hizballah leader Shaykh Durani to Israel?

[Peres] I cannot and do not want to comment on this.

[Avrech] How can one deprive the radical fundamentalists of their cause? Perhaps by returning all territories that were occupied in 1967 and, above all, by solving the problem of Jerusalem?

[Peres] I do not believe that this would help. Even in this case Hizballah would not stop carrying out terrorist attacks. These extremists consider Israel and the Israelis to be some sort of collective Salman Rushdie. They want to attack Israel to abolish it forever. The point is not that they want to negotiate on this or that political issue. They are not looking for a compromise, they are trying to destroy Israel.

[Avrech] What can Israel do to support PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in the autonomous territories and to weaken the oppositional fundamentalist HAMAS fighters?

[Peres] Israel is supporting 'Arafat in many ways. But control over Gaza now is in his hands. I think that the most important problem is the bad economic situation. He must make sure that the money that is available to him is used sensibly and thus also has a political benefit for him. If he does not establish transparent and clean institutions, which distribute the money, he will have problems. Israel has again opened the border to Palestinian workers from Gaza, and we have even renounced the due income tax. In addition, we are very generous as regards electricity and power supply to Gaza and we have renounced millions of dollars in debts.

[Avrech] Hizballah is operating primarily from Lebanon, which is controlled by Syria. Would not an agreement with Damascus and the return of the strategically unimportant Golan Heights automatically weaken the Hizballah?

[Peres] That is difficult to say. But it is quite clear: We want a comprehensive peace agreement with the Syrians, that is, a solution for Syria and Lebanon. And I hope that through a peace with Syria we will also come to an end of terror and violence.

[Avrech] In a first reaction to the bomb attack in Buenos Aires, Prime Minister Rabin said that now the head of the terrorist snake must be hacked off. Does this mean that Israel is planning military attacks against the mullahs' regime?

[Peres] I cannot speak for Rabin.

Clinton Willingness To Curb Terror Welcomed

TA2807083594 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] U.S. and Israeli teams will soon begin discussing steps to curb the recent wave of international terror. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said the United States is aware of the magnitude of the matter, and that the main problem is the cooperation of European countries and Japan. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports:

[Begin recording] [Segal] Israeli sources are pleased with U.S. President Bill Clinton's willingness to act against the wave of international terror. On the plane returning from the United States yesterday, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated that Clinton is very well aware of the magnitude of the problem. The United States is open to suggestions, Rabin said. U.S. and Israeli teams will soon hold discussions on possible ways to fight the wave of Islamic terror.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres pointed to the element he thinks is responsible for the terror attacks: Iran.

[Peres] We have no doubt that Iran is the root of all evil, and that it has no qualms about using violence or spreading lies. Therefore, our position on the issue is absolutely firm.

[Segal] Nevertheless, the United States is not convinced or prepared to take steps against it.

[Peres] The United States is convinced but, naturally, it is more cautious in its pronouncements because it needs more substantive evidence. Nevertheless, it has definitely been applying pressure on the European countries to increase their involvement in the war against Iranian terror.

[Segal] The prime minister expressed his concern about the attitude toward Iran of the European countries in general, and of Japan in particular. According to him, these countries underwrite loans for Iran and maintain trade relations with it, and this precludes international pressure aimed at stopping terrorism. [end recording]

Action To Apprehend Buenos Aires Bombers Decided

TA2807091494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] In its meeting in Jerusalem this morning, the Israeli Cabinet decided to take action aimed at apprehending and punishing the terrorists who perpetrated the

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bombing in Buenos Aires. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the ministers called on other governments to take effective action against terror and to protect the lives of Jews and Israelis in their countries. They emphasized that Israel will do everything in its power and authority to protect Israeli and Jewish institutions against international terror.

Government Withdraws Gaza-Jericho Legislation

TA2807100994 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Jul 94 p 3

[Report by Dan Izenberg]

[Text] The government withdrew its enabling legislation for the implementation of the May 4 Gaza/Jericho Accord yesterday after discovering it lacked the support of Meretz and the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality [DFPE] and did not have a majority.

To make matters worse for the government, the Likud announced it would turn the vote on the legislation into a no-confidence motion.

In a face-saving gesture, party leaders said they would convene a special plenary session to pass the bill next week. However, they did not explain how the government would persuade their left-wing allies to change their minds in the meantime.

One Labor MK [Knesset member] said the only way to pass the bill would be to delete the section dealing with restricting PLO activity in eastern Jerusalem.

Such a move, however, would be a severe blow to the prestige of the government, which drafted the legislation to counter opposition attacks that it has failed to prevent the PLO from establishing a political presence in eastern Jerusalem.

A party official said Labor leaders are waiting for Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to return home and "restore order" in the coalition.

Yesterday, the government could only count on the support of Labor Party for the legislation. Democratic Arab Party leader 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah said his two-man faction was "hesitating" over whether to support the bill.

Meretz decided to allow its members to vote according to their conscience. Several of them, including Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, Absorption Minister Ya'ir Tzaban and MK No'omi Hazan, made it clear they would vote against the bill. The Meretz representatives oppose Section Five, calling for the restriction of PLO institutions inside Israel.

Tamar Gozansky (DFPE) said her party also opposed Section Five.

Gonen Segev (YI'UD) [Independent and Democratic Israel] said his faction had not decided how to vote on the bill.

The position of Shas [Torah Observing Sephardim] was unclear.

Gaza, Jericho Said 'Asylums' for 'Terrorists'

TA2807100494 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Jul 94 p 3

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[Text] Security officials are concerned that Palestinian terrorists and criminals are escaping into the autonomous areas of Jericho and Gaza.

Yesterday, Police Inspector General Asaf Hefetz called on the Palestinian Police to return Palestinians wanted by the Israeli authorities.

"Jericho and Gaza have become asylums for Palestinian criminals and terrorists," Hefetz told reporters, during a tour of Hebron.

He said the Palestinian Police have failed to live up to their commitment to help catch terrorists who flee into their jurisdiction.

With regard to criminals, however, the Palestinian Police are cooperating with the Israeli authorities, according to Hefetz.

He said he could not confirm or deny reports that the assailant in Tuesday's Neve Ya'aqov stabbing had escaped to Jericho. A senior police source said it appeared the suspect fled there.

During the tour, the inspector-general reviewed the new security procedures at the Makhpela Cave and met with Jewish leaders in Hebron.

Reporters accompanying Hefetz were to have gone inside the Makhpela Cave, but were halted at the last minute by order OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran.

Hefetz, meanwhile, said the police force would be doubled in Hebron, as part of an overall police redeployment in the territories.

State of Economy Indicator Rises in June

TA2807100294 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 July 94 p 8

[Report by Jose Rosenfeld]

[Text] The Bank of Israel's "S", or state of the economy indicator, rose 0.5 percent in June, reflecting the economy's continued expansion, although at a slower pace than during the first quarter of the year.

During the first quarter of the year, the index jumped 3.8 percent compared to a 0.9 percent increase in the second quarter, the central bank's research department reported yesterday.

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The Bank of Israel also revised upward April's index to 0.2 percent from 0.1 percent and adjusted downward May's index to 0.1 percent from 0.2 percent.

Since the beginning of the year, the index has increased by 4.67 percent, compared with 1.75 percent during the same period last year.

However, the index rose less during the first half of this year than in the previous six months, when it increased by 5.61 percent.

Retail sales, a good consumption indicator, rose 1.2 percent in June, following a 2.76 percent jump in May.

Imports fell 6.4 percent, after rising 5.3 percent in May.

The number of jobs in the business sector rose 0.6 percent in May following a drop of 0.7 percent in April.

Industrial production fell 1.1 percent in May, after rising 2.3 percent in the previous month.

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Haddadin on Washington Declaration, Water Talks

JN2607202194 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Here in Amman, the head of Jordan's subcomission in the peace talks with Israel on water, energy, and environment, says Jordanian negotiators will very soon be on a convergence to solving the water problem with Israel.

Dr. Mundhir Haddadin told Radio Jordan that the Jordanian team to the bilateral peace talks with Israel have succeeded in defining what the water problem is all about. Radio Jordan's Khalid al-Shurman interviewed Dr. Haddadin.

[Begin recording] [Al-Shurman] Dr. Mundhir Haddadin, head of the subcommission on water, energy, and environment to the Jordanian-Israeli bilateral peace talks: Dr. Haddadin, what impact would the Washington Declaration have on the future of the bilateral peace talks?

[Haddadin] I believe and as of yesterday a new momentum has started. The Washington Declaration will undoubtedly have its positive impacts on the bilateral negotiations that we are conducting with the Israelis at this time. It is a benchmark on this historic junction we are passing through in the Middle East, and I think it sets the framework for our negotiations. And I believe that achieving our goal will not be very far from where we are today.

[Al-Shurman] Dr. Haddadin, as for water, which, as you know, is a major concern for our people in this country, how immediate shall we expect a solution to this issue?

[Haddadin] Well, it is expected that we achieve the goal of a comprehensive peace before long. Water is one of the main subjects in our negotiations agenda, and therefore, I believe before it is late we will be coming to a convergence of views on the water problem. We have as of now succeeded in defining what the conflict is all about. We have also issued a statement to the effect that—and it was also aired by President Clinton yesterday—that we both respect each other's rightful shares in the waters of the Jordan River and the al-Yarmuk River. But, I believe that before long we will come to convergence of views and hopefully to a solution that would be satisfactory to the two of us. But let me remind every one that even if I have that issue resolved the way I want, it will not solve my problems beyond the turn of this century. Alternatively, if the Israelis have it resolved the way they want, it will not solve any of their problems. They have come up to a dead end in terms of development of water resources at this time. And if the Palestinians have it resolved the way they want, it would not solve their problem for a long period of time. The answer then would rest in the initiation of regional cooperation to achieve goals that otherwise cannot be reached acting unilaterally and the road to regional cooperation or even to cooperation among those three parties in segregation. That potential for cooperation would be initiated after the rights have been defined and restored to their rightful owners.

[Al-Shurman] That reminds me, Dr. Haddadin, of his majesty the king's persistent call on finding a comprehensive peace in the region, and not insisting on a unilateral solution.

[Haddadin] There is not unilateral in the declaration yesterday. It was so clear that the peace we are after is comprehensive. His majesty was crystal clear in that, and that that peace would be based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. It would also be based on the principles of justice, human dignity, and human rights. I think his majesty has lived up to his historic responsibilities. I for one along with millions of Jordanians are very very proud of the way his majesty represented the country and the nation at large. We are looking forward to an era where peace would prevail, where our objectives would be met, and where our future generations would enjoy things that we, as a living generation today, have not had the opportunity or the chance to live.

[Al-Shurman] Dr. Haddadin, thank you very much.

[Haddadin] Thank you. [end recording]

Summit 'Gains,' King's Performance Viewed

JN2707150394 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Jul 94 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "Washington Summit a Historic Achievement"]

[Text] It was really a historic moment, and probably it has launched a new and distinguished chapter in the Middle East for which generation after generation has been waiting. Yesterday's Washington summit between His Majesty King Husayn, President Clinton, and Yitzhaq Rabin turned pages in the book of blood, tears, suffering, and massive destruction of the decades. The summit brought the good news of an era of peace, prosperity, coexistence, and development after the inalienable rights are returned to their owners.

King Husayn has proven—while millions in Jordan, the Arab world, and the rest of the world were watching on television—that he is a political giant and a pioneer who does not let his people down. His people have given him total confidence, which he deserves, and he was a real knight while he was speaking with complete confidence about the rights of Jordan and the Arab world, in spite of the solemn atmosphere created by the Washington summit, which was an event the whole world was watching. This event was an extraordinary breakthrough in relations between parties in the Middle East.

In spite of the contents of the Washington Declaration signed by King Husayn, Rabin, and Clinton that go in line with the Jordanian demands, foremost of which is ending the state of war between the two countries, we

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emphasize that this does not mean a final agreement on everything, or that the aspired peace has become a reality on the ground. As King Husayn said following his speech after signing the declaration, it is " a modest and determined beginning to bring to our region and our peoples the security from fear. We have been able to take a historic step which we hope and pray will be to the benefit of our peoples."

The Washington Declaration is a qualitative step on the road of establishing the just, comprehensive, and lasting peace Jordan seeks. It gave new momentum to the negotiations on both sides—these negotiations which took important steps during the past weeks.

The Washington summit, through the declaration, has won Israeli recognition of the current Jordanian role in the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem. When the negotiations on the final status of Jerusalem begin, Israel will give high priority to Jordan's historical role in these shrines. This is a central issue for Jordan, and one that His Majesty King Husayn has repeatedly emphasized since Jerusalem and the Islamic shrines represent a special priority for Jordan and the Hashemite family.

Although the Washington Declaration includes agreement on linking telephone lines and electricity, opening crossing points on borders, and cooperation in the field of fighting narcotics and crime, there is still a great distance separating us from a peace that is acceptable by future generations. This peace requires negotiations that will, probably, be tiresome. These negotiations will deal with Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Jordanian territories, recognition of Jordan's sovereignty over these territories, border demarcation, in addition to the restoration of the usurped Jordanian water rights. All this will also pave the way for comprehensive peace on the other Arab tracks.

There is also another essential point that requires a serious and quick solution. This point concerns the progress in the peace process, which is the fulfillment of U.S. commitments, as promised by President Clinton's administration, on offering economic and military assistance to Jordan, and resolving the problem of debts.

Probably, the comprehensive speech His Majesty King Husayn will deliver before the Congress today will be key in the decision that will be adopted by the representatives of the American people so they will actively support the peace efforts by helping Jordan, which is a central link in the chain of security and stability of the Middle east region.

Our people and nation have not, as some people said, lost anything at the Washington summit, but we have gained many things. Certainly, King Husayn has made great personal sacrifices by agreeing to participate in this summit, and such sacrifices are only offered by historic leaders who give priority to the interests of their peoples and for whom international peace is a central concern.

Through his magnificent performance yesterday, King Husayn won our people's pride in their unique leadership. He also won more world respect, and this was represented in the many positive reactions to the Washington summit.

Crown Prince Hasan Defends Jerusalem Stand

JN2707185894 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] The ministers, the secretaries general of public departments, and senior civil servants have spelled out their blessings and gratitude for recent peace efforts of his majesty the king in Washington. His majesty's endeavors are to be added to accumulated history, to which his majesty dedicated his life.

During the meeting, which was presided over by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan the regent, the gathering in al-Hashimiyah Palace blessed the letter of allegiance sent today for his majesty the king in the name of the Jordanian people.

His highness addressed the attendance, thanking them for firm attitude and awareness of their responsibilities. He hailed their response to his majesty's relentless efforts in supporting Jordan's attitudes aimed at protecting its national, Arab, and international gains. He talked about a number of issues, analyzing and illustrating. His highness said Jordan, when it conceded its sovereignty over the West Bank and al-Qods [Jerusalem] holy city, it will not be but for Arab sovereignty. [sentence as heard] He added: The recognition of the sacred rights of the Muslims and Arabs in the holy city is an accomplishment we are proud of. His highness said Jordan always was keen on crystallizing realistic solutions for the Jerusalem issue, provided such solutions include the rights of the Arab nation in the holy city and its shrines.

His Majesty King Husayn has received a letter from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan the regent, who conveyed to his majesty, on behalf of himself and in the name of the Jordanian people, regardless of their origins, the sincerest feelings, pride, and gratitude for his majesty's blessed steps. The letter said: Such steps are aimed at realizing a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace that restores full rights and be protected by generations to come. [sentence as heard]

The message reiterated absolute loyalty, allegiance, and support for his majesty's wise and farsighted leadership that shoulders honestly the responsibility of defending the rights of the people, and those of the nation.

Minister on Curriculum Changes After Peace

JN2707153794 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 27 Jul 94 p 6

[Interview with Jordanian Minister of Education 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, by AL-ASWAQ correspondents Faysal al-Shubul and Nabil Ghishan]

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[Excerpts] [AL-ASWAQ] Following the Washington Declaration, do you think that you have to start changing the educational curriculum to cope with the new stage?

[Al-Rawabidah] I think working on details is like entering a labyrinth. We are speaking about negotiations that lead to peace. When peace is attained, I think the whole picture of relations between states will change, and this change will be felt in all walks of life. The brothers in the self-rule authority asked for our present Jordanian educational courses, and the prime minister approved this request. We will supply them with our school curriculum which will be taught in Gaza, Jericho, and the West Bank. We will only remove the book covers on which words "the Hashmite Kingdom of Jordan" are printed. These words will be replaced with the Self-Rule Authority—Palestinian Administration. They will teach our same courses.

I think discussing fine points is like working on puzzles. We either do or do not realize lasting and comprehensive peace. If we reach a lasting peace, it will have requisites that include all walks of life.

[AL-ASWAQ] But the Washington Declaration is interpreted by some people as engaging in arrangements concerning relations, with the exception of embassies.

[Al-Rawabidah] I think that to portray the subject in this way is far from the truth. What we have is a declaration on ending the state of war as a prelude to begin a state of peace, and this does not mean that a state of peace has been realized.

In order to begin the state of peace, Jordan should get its rights to land, water, borders, trade, and security and many other fields on which no agreement has been reached. What has been reached is an agreement on main principles, and when these principles are translated on the ground, when Jordan gets all its rights, and when comprehensive peace is realized, then we can speak about a state of peace. The state of peace does not mean moving to fully open relations from the first day. There are already peaceful relations between Egypt and Israel, but it is too early to talk about this kind of relationship between Jordan and Israel.

[AL-ASWAQ] Ending the state of belligerency requires changing something in the cultural makeup. It requires removing what is in the curriculum from the student's mind. Will you start doing this before the beginning of the next academic year?

[Al-Rawabidah] This will not take place until there is a state of peace. There are peace requisites that should be carried out from the first hour of peace. We declared the end of the state of war but we did not announce the beginning of the state of peace because we have not gotten our rights yet. Jordan is waiting to get its rights and the signing of a peace agreement to reach a just, honorable, and comprehensive peace, and then the peace requisites will cover all walks of life. [passage omitted]

[AL-ASWAQ] The subject of curriculum was raised more than once at the House of Representatives, and there have been charges that foreign experts are working to change it in a manner that copes with the peace stage. Now, that you are a minister, have you investigated this subject? And what have you found out?

[Al-Rawabidah] I investigated this subject, and I found that we do not have foreign experts working on changing our curriculum. We have experts in designing and production who draw pictures and shapes for school books, and they have nothing to do with the contents of books.

AL-RA'Y Views King Husayn's Congress Speech

JN2707140494 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Jul 94 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "Peace Revolt"]

[Text] In his historic speech at the joint session of the U.S. Congress yesterday, His Majesty King Husayn detailed the banner of the next stage of the peace revolt. All that now seems unnatural and odd will become normal, because peace requires courageous steps that liberate mind and action from the residues of a memory full of blood, fear, and hunger. There is a broad human horizon in which the capabilities of the generations are unleashed in confidence and reassurance and without fear.

Within this context, His Majesty King Husayn emphasized the terms of reference to a peace based on Resolutions 242 and 338, which openly call for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all countries in the region, avoiding threats and the occupation of Arab territories by force.

It is logical that in the same context, his majesty reiterated that we will not forget Palestine, not for a moment, and that we will not forget Jerusalem, the symbol of peace and the main door leading to the final stop of the peace process, the peace treaty that provides opportunities for all to contribute to this historic peace-making on all tracks.

The warm reception of King Husayn's speech by Congress demonstrates the high credibility Jordan enjoys under its courageous leadership that has supported the aspired peace—this peace that Jordan sincerely worked for as an objective, and for which his majesty has worked all his life, as he told Congress.

His majesty also spoke about the essence of a peace that is acceptable and protected by the generations—it is the peace of the man who is liberated from an isolationist mentality and who seeks a joint future. It is the peace that is not made by governments alone but by the people, who have real and permanent interests in this peace.

Although the speech was primarily addressed to the American and the world's peoples, his majesty said Jordan's peace efforts represent a sovereign right to

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make peace, and that this is the same as the soldier's right to defend his homeland, and man's right to seek peace and protect democracy. He urged Israel to respond to the call for peace on the land of peace and the cradle of heavenly religions.

Finally, we hope the summit event will be an event of peace, too, and that King Husayn's message was received by the Israelis after it was clearly received and welcomed by Congress and the American people.

Leadership Change in Muslim Brotherhood Viewed

JN2707142694 Amman AL-LIWA' in Arabic 27 Jul 94 p 7

[Article by Muhammad Hasan al-Tall: "Viewing Dismissal of Muslim Brotherhood Controller General: Is Brotherhood Ship Now Without A Captain? Dismissal of Shaykh Most Serious Result of Brotherhood Leadership Differences. Will Sudden Change Herald Brotherhood Abandonment of Constant Principles?"]

[Text] And obey Allah and His messenger; and fall into no disputes, lest ye lose heart and your power depart; and be patient and preserving: For Allah is with those who patiently persevere. [Koranic verse]

The dismissal of the controller general of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, after 42 years of continuous struggle in the cause of the Islamic call, came as one of many surprises to Arab citizens. It had never occurred to anyone that the Arab wall would collapse this way in the face of the Zionist thrust. It had never occurred to anyone either that peace with the enemy would become a service to peoples and a sacrifice for them.

Likewise, it had never occurred to any brother of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan that a group of their leaders would dismiss history and symbolism, embodied in the person of Controller General His Eminence Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah. Khalifah is one of the few people who knew the first imam of the call in the 20th century, Hasan al-Banna, may his soul rest in peace. This development took place under critical and difficult circumstances in the life of the nation, from Tangiers to Jakarta: collapse in the face of the Zionist thrust; total apathy toward missionary work throughout the Islamic world; and striking hard on any voice that speaks the name of God loud and any hand that works for God and Islam.

The dismissal of his eminence the controller general, which came as a shock to everybody, is one of the most serious results of the contradictions and differences—now known to everybody—being experienced by the leadership of the Islamic movement, represented in the Muslim Brotherhood. Since the government amended the electoral law and introduced the one-man, one-vote system, differences have arisen among the brothers over participation in the elections. Many people argue that the amendment of the electoral law was intended to weaken the role of the Brotherhood inside parliament, especially at a time of peace with Israel.

Differences developed into totally contradicting views. The dismissal of Ziyad Abu-Ghanimah, one of the prominent men of the call of the party and the movement (even though he had resigned from the movement before he was dismissed) is only one result of these sharp differences.

The sharp differences in views between the members of the group's leadership cannot be concealed. Each member has held fast to his views, which resulted in the emergence of hawks and doves. The serious thing about this dispute is that the knights of the two teams are trying to transfer this dispute to fundamentals in order to win support and blessings. The team of the doves has been more successful in this endeavor. This team has won the highest rank in the group's leadership and wrenched the post of controller general which represents the highest authority in the group.

No doubt, the dismissal of the controller general will have adverse effects on the group. First, there is the symbolic aspect of the issue. Abu-Majid (Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah) has long been a symbol of the group, in view of his long struggle, as we have mentioned, in the history of the call since it was first launched by al-Banna in Egypt.

All the credit goes to Khalifah—with the help of almighty God—in establishing the bases of the group in Jordan. He steered the group's ship very adroitly in the most difficult and critical circumstances. In addition to Khalifah's symbolic presence and history, the man is greatly respected by the regime and government in this country. No one can attain such esteem, whatever his political prowess. The controller general managed to win this esteem thanks to his unswerving moderation. This has always prevented any friction between the authorities and the group, even under the most difficult and sensitive circumstances. I think this factor has been crucial in firmly establishing and protecting the group, in this country in particular. With the absence of this man, the group will perhaps lose this factor (we pray to God that this will not be the case).

Khalifah's dismissal will have another serious effect. In the past, when sharp differences occurred, the presence of the shaykh used to settle these differences and prevent many people from going too far, since everybody held him in high esteem. Now that he is absent, things will be completely different. There is no longer the symbol that settles disputes and the holy presence that prevents intransigent views.

Some observers and analysts of this grave Brotherhood event think the dismissal of the controller general is the first step toward changing Brotherhood principles in an age of changes, especially since the new leadership is already classified under the camp of the doves. Those observers and analysts also think these doves will eventually have the upper hand, and that the idea that emerged recently advocating a merger between the Islamic call and the party will soon reappear in the arena,

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since many Brotherhood voices have accused the symbols of the new leadership of being behind the idea.

Cronyism is a disease that has regrettably spread in the body of the group. This was clear during the formation of the party. Each team insisted on supporting its own group or band in order to achieve its purposes and impose its own ideas on the party. This party is no doubt the facade of the political group. It has regrettably failed to carry out this role as a result of the differences and disorder it has experienced from the very beginning. The collective resignation of a large team of founding members was the first indication of the party's faltering steps. In addition, this party did not have the momentum of the group that created it to be its political representative in the public arena.

The camp of the hawks contends this was a direct result of the fact that the flock of doves has, from the outset, sought to monopolize the party's leadership.

The map of the dispute of the hawks and doves within the group shows that the doves have taken control of leadership posts. This includes the party's leadership, as well as full control of the group's executive leadership. The facts of the dispute also show the hawks are still in control of the group's financial resources, represented in the Islamic Center Society and its investments. The doves have failed to take control of the society's leadership.

To be honest, I must say that the hawks have succeeded in administering the financial institutions of the group, particularly the Islamic Hospital. Why did the hawks succeed in the Islamic Center Society and the doves fail in the Islamic Action Front Party?

The surprise of dismissing the controller general so easily after this long period will open the files of the multifaceted dispute within the group. This will certainly prompt the bases to act to stop the farce of the dispute. The bases will certainly side with the old shaykhs rather than the new leaders.

The bases of the Brotherhood are the first to be concerned about what is happening and are the only side to settle matters.

We do not know what the future holds in store for this group, which is loved and supported by the people. Will time prove that the dismissal of the controller general was contrived during the nighttime? Time will determine how long will the ship of the Brotherhood remain without a captain.

Our last prayer is: Praise be to God, Lord of the universe.

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Argentine Demand for 'Ansarallah' Leader Detailed

NC2807095894 Paris AFP in English 0918 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Beirut, July 28 (AFP)—Argentina has demanded that Lebanon extradite a former Hizballah guerrilla leader whom Buenos Aires has implicated in the bombing of a Jewish charity, a government official said here Thursday [28 July].

The Argentine foreign ministry asked Lebanon through its ambassador in Buenos Aires, Riyad al-Qantar, to extradite Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, or face a rupture in diplomatic relations, the official said.

Argentine President Carlos Menem said the Muslim fundamentalist group Ansarallah headed by Shaykh al-Tufayli claimed responsibility for the July 18 bombing that killed at least 96 people.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said the request needed to be accompanied by evidence because the security services here had found no sign that any Lebanese group was involved in the blast, the official said.

The cabinet backed Buwayz when it met late Wednesday.

Hours after the attack Menem said he had received information from the Israeli intelligence service Mosad that Ansarallah (Followers of God) was behind the bombing.

A statement purporting to belong to the group and distributed in the southern Lebanese port of Sidon welcomed the bombing without explicitly claiming responsibility for it.

Shaykh al-Tufayli was secretary general of the Iranian-backed Hizballah between 1987 and 1990. For the last two years he has not been part of the Hizballah leadership.

Buwayz said Tuesday that the Argentine foreign ministry had summoned al-Qantar to ask him for Beirut's cooperation to find those behind the bombing.

Junblatt Rejects Anti-Hizballah Accusations

NC2707154194 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 22 Jul 94 p 4

[Excerpt] Minister of Refugee Affairs Walid Junblatt has declared his solidarity with Hizballah, which represents the spearhead in confronting Israel and its agents in the area and the south. Junblatt's remarks were made during his meeting yesterday with Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah, head of Hizballah's Political Bureau Husayn Khalil, and Bureau member Muhammad al-Khansa'. Present at the meeting were Junblatt's political adviser Ghazi al-'Aridi and Durayd Yaghi, deputy head of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP].

Hizballah has issued a statement, saying that the discussions during the meeting dealt with the political situation, the Chamber of Deputies debates, the Government performance, the issue of the evacuees, and the relations between the two parties under the current political circumstances.

After the meeting Junblatt said: "The visit reflects our solidarity with the comrades in Hizballah, particularly now that the revolutionary Islamic movement is being subjected to military and political pressures in the wake of the air raid on 'Ayn Kawkab, the abduction of al-Hajj Mustafa al-Dirani, and the absurd imperialist accusation that Hizballah and Iran were behind the Buenos Aires bombing. We condemn all these lies and we declare our solidarity with Hizballah. As for the Buenos Aires blast, the West can always invent lies, as in the case with Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman."

Junblatt added: "The West should look at the neo-Nazists because there is a huge German community in Argentina. Perhaps Israel itself carried out the bombing in order to instigate Latin American and North Americans against the Arabs and Muslims. We announce our solidarity with Hizballah; this is the result of an long-standing alliance." [passage omitted]

Council of Ministers Discusses 'Israeli Threats'

NC2807071894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 Jul 94

[News conference by Information Minister Michel Samahah with unidentified correspondents after a Council of Ministers meeting in Beirut on 27 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Samahah] The Council of Ministers has held its weekly meeting under Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. The council discussed topics on its agenda and approved several items. [passage omitted]

At the beginning of its meeting, the council heard a report by the prime minister on developments in the south and regional developments regarding the situation in the south. The report dealt with Israel's recent concentrations there and threats made by Israeli officials in light of developments following U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent negotiations and Israel's accusations against Lebanon in connection with the Buenos Aires and London explosions. As the Lebanese Government we regard these accusations as false and unfounded. We denounce any terrorist action anywhere and regard any threat against the south, piracy against Lebanon, and attack against south Lebanon and western al-Biqa' as a terrorist action of the type that can take place anywhere.

The Council of Ministers also heard a report from the foreign minister on developments in the negotiations and the consultations held by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'—during his visit to Lebanon last Saturday—with his excellency the president and the foreign minister. His report also dealt with President Hafiz al-Asad's message, conveyed by the Syrian foreign minister, to Lebanese officials regarding developments in the negotiations between President al-Asad and Secretary of

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State Christopher. In this message President al-Asad highlighted the constants of the Syrian position regarding Arab rights in the Golan and Lebanese Arab rights in south Lebanon and western al-Biqa'.

Following these reports, the Council of Ministers discussed the general situation. The prime minister asked the defense and interior ministers and the ministers concerned with service affairs to be fully mobilized and prepared to deal with any eventuality in light of Israel's threats and claims, which could be the prelude to aggression against Lebanon. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Minister, regarding the media issue [words indistinct].

[Samahah] The transmission of news will be allowed after the law passed by the Chamber of Deputies is published in the official gazette. No date can be set now. But it will be soon. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Regarding the Army Day celebration, will it be allowed [words indistinct]?

[Samahah] The Army Day celebration is a national activity on Army Day, not a political activity. All the people are called upon to participate in the Army Day celebration and to honor the Army by spreading our joy on this day and by commenting on it as a national day, not a political day.

There is one final point I want to make. As the Council of Ministers met and as we meet here, the Israeli forces are besieging Yuhmur village and annexing it to the border strip. This is a serious development taking place on the border strip. In light of what I have said, the Council of Ministers asked the foreign minister to hold the necessary contacts with the ambassadors of the big states. Indeed the foreign minister began contacts this morning and met some of the ambassadors of the big states. He will continue his meetings tonight and tomorrow. He is discussing with them all the developments in the south, the Israeli threats, and the Israeli action in Yuhmur and elsewhere in the south.

Samahah on Israeli Aggression, Peace Talks

NC2707182494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Report on interview with Information Minister Michel Samahah by unidentified BBC correspondent; place and date not given]

[Text] Information Minister Michel Samahah has announced that whenever certain events occur or partial agreements are pushed through outside the context of the Madrid peace conference, Lebanon can expect fresh Israeli aggression against it.

He said that progress on the Lebanese and Syrian negotiating tracks depends on how far U.S. initiative and sponsorship can promote the implementation of the relevant UN resolutions.

In an interview with the BBC, Minister Samahah said he hopes that the United States will convey progressive Israeli responses to Lebanon that are well within the bounds of the Madrid conference's negotiating logic and the concept of restoring Arab rights.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Minister Samahah, Israeli leaders have made several threats to carry out military actions against Hizballah and Lebanon. What about these threats?

[Samahah] Whenever a notable event occurs, whenever a partial agreement is pushed through outside the context of the Madrid peace conference and its attendant negotiations, in order to attain a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace, Lebanon has grown accustomed to attacks by Israel. Israel carries out these attacks from the positions it occupies in the south and in the western al-Biqa', using feeble pretexts such as claims that it is attacking Hizballah. It also carries out acts of piracy against parties that it believes possess certain security information. Sometimes it uses as a pretext an attack on one of its embassies or ambassadors abroad, even though no one has proof that Lebanon is the source of such attacks.

At any rate, Israel is occupying Lebanese territory, and the Lebanese Resistance in the south is performing a heroic, courageous action that is in perfect harmony with its national duty to confront the occupation of our national territory. The Resistance sees to it that Israel does not continue occupying this territory with impunity.

[Correspondent] Minister Samahah, we know that Secretary Christopher will return to the region and that this time there is hope of progress on the Lebanese and Syrian negotiating tracks. How can there be progress on these two tracks as long as there are security pressures?

[Samahah] The peace effort is aimed at a lasting, just, and comprehensive regional peace in the context of the principles of the Madrid conference. Progress on these two negotiating tracks depends on how far the United States—the initiator and sponsor of the Madrid conference and the consequent Washington talks that have sought to implement the UN resolutions—can move positively vis-a-vis the Syrian and Lebanese positions and persuade Israel to negotiate in the spirit of the Madrid conference rather than carry out separate negotiations in Oslo, London, or elsewhere. We hope that the U.S. peace partner will convey progressive Israeli answers to us that will be in harmony with the negotiating logic established in Madrid and the concept of restoring Arab rights. President Clinton was convinced of this logic during his summit with President al-Asad in Geneva in January 1994.

[Correspondent] Minister, one last question. Concerning Israel's military reinforcements in the south and the threats by Israeli officials, do you have information on whether an attack is likely? What will you do to stop it?

[Samahah] To confront such attacks, Lebanon will do what it has always done. It will contact international parties to dissuade Israel from carrying out reckless acts or creating a tense

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atmosphere through acts of piracy on the Lebanese front, bombardments, or incursions into Lebanese territory. Before every serious round of negotiations, Israel seeks to undermine the Lebanese domestic front and put pressure on the Lebanese Government. Through these acts it tries also to undermine the steadfast Syrian position in the negotiations. The steadfast Syrian and Lebanese position rests on the need to restore all their rights, as agreed upon before the Madrid conference.

[Correspondent] Minister Samahah, is Lebanon able to stand a new Israeli attack?

[Samahah] We have experienced numerous Israeli attacks before, carried out by various methods including incursions, piracy, and bombings like the bombing of the church at Zuq Mikha'il, with the aim of undermining our domestic front and provoking sedition inside Lebanon. Lebanon has become immune to such dangers, however, through the forging of a new, enlightened national unity, through the strength of its constitutional institutions, and its defense establishment, notably the Lebanese Army, whose anniversary we will be marking on 1 August. This has happened as a result of the Lebanese citizens' enlightenment, their awareness of the importance of domestic peace, and the strengthening of their Arab affiliation through integration with Syria. Integration with Syria is strengthened not merely through the treaty of brotherhood with it, but through the Lebanese belief that Syria gives Lebanon strategic depth in confronting Israel and negotiating with it in order to restore Lebanon's rights. All this enables Lebanon to confront any likely Israeli attack. [end recording]

'Lebanese Forces' Party Distributes Statement

NC2707175494 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 17 Jul 94 Phalangist Party 1, 11

[Excerpt] In the first public reappearance, the banned "Lebanese Forces" party distributed a political statement yesterday accusing the Lebanese authorities of fabricating all the charges leveled at the party chairman [Samir Ja'ja'] and questioning the objectivity of the judiciary.

Signed by "the Lebanese Forces Action and Coordination Panel", the statement was sent by registered mail to AL-DIYAR last evening. AFP too reported that it had received a copy of the statement in the same manner. The statement said that its objective was to "reiterate commitment to a right that schemes have sought to wipe out."

AFP remarked that the statement was the first public appearance by the party since the authorities dissolved it last March and banned its media, as well as all other private media, from broadcasting news bulletins. The agency noted an announcement by the judiciary that Dr. Samir Ja'ja'—jailed since 21 April on charges of involvement in blowing up the Sayyidat al-Najat Church and causing the deaths of 10 persons and the assassination of Dani Sham'un and his family in November 1990—will be tried publicly.

The statement affirms that the upcoming trials are "political and police-state-like, and have nothing to do with any judiciary. It says that the judiciary has no independence." It adds: "We are up against the most hideous scheme by the most repulsive dictatorship ever."

The statement appeals to officials at all levels and sectors to "assume a conscientious stand, quickly rectify the catastrophe, and avert a historic mistake."

It reiterates "the pledge of loyalty by all the sons of the [Christian] resistance and their firm insistence on maintaining the heroic, historic leadership embodied by the wise doctor (Samir Ja'ja'), wherever he might be."

The statement emphasizes "definite faith in the intellectual and political line of the Lebanese Forces, as outlined by Ja'ja', and eternal commitment to the party's historic plan, with all its major objectives: The unabridged sovereignty and independence of the Lebanese entity and the full, unconditional freedom of all the groups belonging to that entity; and guarantees for all groups' rights at all levels and in all fields." [passage omitted]

Media Asked To Fill Out Questionnaires

NC2707174894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Information Minister Michel Samahah has urged the audiovisual media to commit themselves to the country's constant national principles and the substance of the temporary media bill.

Speaking after meeting today with the representatives of these media establishments, he called on them to fill out questionnaires—actually statistical and identification forms—about their establishments in line with the cabinet's decision on this affair. He told them that they must hand in these questionnaires by 12 August 1994 but pointed out that merely filling out the forms does not bestow any legal rights on the media or signify that they have been given licenses.

Minister Samahah urged the Lebanese media to adopt the same line vis-a-vis any Israeli attack on the south and western al-Biqa'.

He stressed the importance of constant consultation between official sources and the media over any major event. He warned of the dangerous consequences of justifying attacks, whether the justification is intentional or accidental.

It was agreed to hold another meeting on 8 August 1994.

German Company Wins Airport Contract

NC2707145194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] The German industrial group (Hoechstel) has said that it signed with the Lebanese Government a contract worth some $400 to rebuild and expand Beirut airport. The group said that the contract was signed in Beirut on 22 July. Construction is expected to begin in the fall and is expected to last four years.

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U.S. 'Largely Responsible' for Peace 'Failure'

JN2707104294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Press review]

[Text] Commenting on true peace, AL-THAWRAH says: President Hafiz al-Asad has spelled out the nature of the peace that Syria wants and toward which it cooperates with all constructive efforts. It is a peace that preserves the dignity and rights of all. This definition of the nature of the desired peace asserts the fact that any solution not based on preserving Arab dignity and rights is rejected by Syria. Syria has pointed out that Israel has so far not managed to digest the formula of true peace and its requirements. The reason that this formula is difficult for Israel is that the Shamir and Rabin governments have never been willing to accept peace in its objective formula. This fact shows that the responsibility for obstructing the peace process lies primarily with Israel because it could not abandon its expansionist inclination and illusions about perpetuating occupation, this time through pushing the peace process toward partial solutions that aim at depriving Arabs from their rights.

AL-THAWRAH adds that the United States is also largely responsible for the failure of the peace process so far because it failed to assume a role equal to its responsibility toward the peace process. In addition, it has not put the required pressure on Israel to force it to change its stands and adopt a policy based on a clear commitment to the principles of true peace.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Sweet words, glittering phrases, and false concern about peace do not make peace. The only way to make peace is to work to achieve it on the foundations and bases laid down in the Madrid formula and UN resolutions, primarily returning to the 4 June 1967 borders as a basic condition to pave the way for a just and comprehensive peace.

Under the headline "Peace Can Be Achieved Through a Comprehensive Solution," AL-BA'TH notes the telephone call received by President Hafiz al-Asad the day before yesterday from U.S. President Bill Clinton and the U.S. President's reiteration of his country's commitment to a comprehensive solution in the region.

AL-BA'TH says these repeated assertions of the U.S. Administration of its commitment to a comprehensive solution have become familiar. These assertions did not come out of a vacuum. They are the result of a conviction that security, stability, and peace cannot be achieved in the region if peace is not comprehensive.

AL-BA'TH adds: It has been proven that truncated, partial solutions do not bring true peace to the region. Quite the opposite. True peace is impossible to achieve if rights are not returned in full in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy, on whose basis the peace process was launched.

AL-BA'TH says the peace process will not achieve its objectives if the condition of full and comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories is not met. What is happening is only Israeli circumvention of the requirements and conditions for peace, specifically the principle of withdrawal. Israel insists on avoiding this requirement, by making suggestions that cannot be considered until after withdrawal is completed.

AL-BA'TH concludes: It is time for Israel to realize that the true peace the world is aspiring for cannot be achieved unless Israel commits itself to the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy. The whole world has stressed the need to implement these resolutions. Only Israel disregards this and works through channels that are far from the Madrid formula, thinking that it can achieve what it wants through these channels on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, similar to what it has achieved in the Oslo and Washington agreements. By doing this, Israel has created a fatal impasse for the peace process because it is impossible for it to get what it dreams of achieving and because Syria and Lebanon reject the policy of unilateral action and partial solutions.

Under the headline "No Peace Without Syria," TISHRIN says: It is well known that since U.S. President George Bush launched the peace process, Syria has responded to it on the condition that peace must be just and comprehensive and must rest on Security Council Revolutions and the principles and charters of international legitimacy.

Syria has repeatedly sought to hold meetings for the Arab parties involved in the talks to stress the unity of Arab stands. Syria has expected, right from the outset, that Israel will try to circumvent the objective of a just and comprehensive peace by propagating partial solutions and separate deals that cause great damage to higher pan-Arab interests, do away with the substance of the resolutions of international legitimacy, and give Israel a free hand. Syria's fears have materialized. The Gaza-Jericho agreement was a prelude to the current normalization of relations, Israeli control over the resources of the Palestinian people, and abandonment of Jerusalem.

TISHRIN refers to Israeli suggestions that recent developments will put pressure on Syria to soften its positions, by which Israel means Syria's abandonment of its basic demands represented in full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon, respecting Arab rights, and implementing Security Council resolutions to the letter.

The paper asserts that Syria's rich history bears witness that Syria does not submit to pressure or relinquish an iota of national soil, nor can it be dragged to a position that does not serve the nation's higher interests. Syria's demands are stipulated by international resolutions. Syria believes that peace in the Middle East is impossible if occupation does not end. There is no greater hazard to the future of peace in the region than unfair agreements

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that do not meet the demands and wishes of the Arabs, because these agreements will eventually turn into a bomb that could explode at any moment.

TISHRIN concludes: Syria does not stand alone in the face of Israel. Lebanon and all the Arab masses stand by it. Syria and Lebanon are determined to regain their territories in full and achieve a comprehensive peace. The strength of Syria and Lebanon is in the fact that there can be no future for any peace in the Middle East without their actual participation.

Israel Said Responsible for Peace Failure

JN2707150594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 gmt 27 jul 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israel is making desperate attempts to get rid of the Madrid conference formula, to strike at the fundamentals of the peace process, and to avoid the land-for-peace principle.

Without doubt, developments after the Madrid conference confirm Israel will not abandon the policy it adopted before the conference. It is a policy based on the exchange of peace for peace, the non-abandonment of occupied Arab territories, the non-commitment to the resolutions of international legitimacy, and skirting Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

Israel has been deliberately trying to avoid a just and comprehensive peace. It has been willfully seeking to propagate partial solutions, to create rifts in the Arab stand, and to strike at the Arab parties directly concerned with the peace process.

Due to Israel's adherence to its own conditions and justifications, the peace process has seen no progress and has continued to face many obstacles. The stalemate in the peace process, a result of Israeli intransigence, is only one manifestation of the Israeli policy based on the rejection of a just and comprehensive peace and on an adherence to occupied Arab territories. This has further complicated the situation in the region and caused Israel to increase its aggressive practices, to heat up the situation in the region, to threaten to resort to its terrorist methods, to carry out massacres in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and to launch continuous aggression against the villages, towns, and cities of southern Lebanon.

At the same time, Israel is seeking to foil the U.S. political efforts, to place obstacles and traps on the road to saving the peace process, and to maintain the stalemate in this process. All this would exacerbate the conflict and maintain the state of confusion, eruption, and tension in the Middle East.

Facts and events confirm that Israel is responsible for the consequences of its policy and practices. Hence, it is responsible for the failure to achieve a just and comprehensive peace and for its non-commitment to the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Peace—as well as responding to and accepting its requirements—will not accept prevarication and maneuvers and will not accept being realized in increments. This is because partial solutions naturally contradict a just and comprehensive peace and because phased settlements cannot stand against developments and events because they are not based on anything that responds to the ambitions of a real and desired peace—a peace whose objectives and bases were defined by the Madrid conference and the resolutions of international legitimacy.

From this premise and driven by a strong eagerness to fulfill the peace process and to achieve its desired objectives—objectives proven by documents, guarantees, and promises and based on full Israeli withdrawal—Syria has adhered to a just and comprehensive peace and stressed the constants of this solution. It did so with its response and commitment to the will of international legitimacy and to the need to end Israeli occupation as the only prelude to reaching a just and comprehensive peace.

Everyone realizes this process continues to maintain its vitality and momentum because of Syria's position and its sincere response to the peace process. The road is still open to a just and comprehensive peace. The U.S. Administration is still exerting efforts so truth will stand as an embodiment of the role of an honest broker and full partner to which it is committed for the sake of a real and serious implementation of the land-for-peace principle and of ending Israel's occupation of the Golan Heights, southern Lebanon, and the rest of the occupied Arab territories.

Press Attacks 'Separate Breakthroughs' in Peace

JN2807102294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Peace of Dignity," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Mistaken is he who thinks that achieving separate breakthroughs in the peace process can accelerate the subjugation of the Syrian and Lebanese tracks to the Israeli's bad negotiating mood. This mood is trying to tamper with the bases and formula of the Madrid conference, circumvent both the UN resolutions and the international community's will, and remove the substance of the U.S. initiative which is based on the land-for-peace principle.

The paper asserts that the Arab people will not be satisfied with less than regaining all their territory, rights, and holy places. It cites President Hafiz al-Asad as saying that we want peace that can preserve the dignity of all and safeguard the rights of all, so it can last. This is because a dignified peace, which is based on regaining the whole territory and rights, will be durable.

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AL-THAWRAH believes that peace is impossible without achieving a just and comprehensive solution which responds to both the international community's will and international legitimacy and which implements the resolutions of this legitimacy. These resolutions were the substance of the Madrid conference and will remain the basis of the solution to which Syria adheres. Based on such a solution, Syria is responding to the international efforts designed to promote the peace process.

The paper stresses that Syria has actually proved its sincere peaceful tendency and its credible positions on a just and comprehensive peace. This is because Syria adopts constant strategic principles which converge with the international legitimacy, with the efforts made by the two cosponsors of the peace process, and with the substance of the U.S. initiative. The paper points out that Syria joined the battle for peace from a position of strength and confidence in itself, its people, and its nation's masses. Syria is confident now, as it has been since the Madrid conference, that nothing can prompt it to sell out its territory or bargain over its rights.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Deluded is he who thinks that Syria can accept anything less than full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, the Golan, and southern Lebanon. There will be either a comprehensive peace or no peace at all.

Under the headline "The Required Peace," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: There is an Arab and international consensus that there will be no just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East without Syria. This was expressed by all those concerned with the peace process, particularly the United States. This was also emphasized by various political and media circles which soundly believe that the success of the peace process is contingent upon achieving a tangible and clear breakthrough on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

The paper adds: There will be either a just and comprehensive peace, or peace will vanish when it violates the bases set for it. These bases are the UN Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. Based on the developments which have taken place, the paper asserts that separate talks, as well as partial and incomplete solutions which will be implemented over a very long period of time, will adversely affect the Arab causes, interests, and rights.

AL-BA'TH reiterates that since the peace process began, Syria has been adopting constant principles led by Arab solidarity and coordination, as well as achieving a comprehensive solution on the one hand and rejecting the sellout of even one inch of territory or rights on the other.

The paper emphasizes that Syria is committed to achieving a just and comprehensive peace that will liberate all territories and regain all usurped rights. Thus, Syria rejects incomplete and distorted peace that will only inflict short-term and long-term catastrophes on the Arab nation's interests.

Regarding Syria's established facts, the paper says peace is impossible without Damascus because peace should not only take into account Syria's regional position and pivotal role in the peace process but also because it should be based on the realization by everyone that Syria's position is credible and that its proposals and principles are sound.

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Afghanistan

Rabbani Offers To Resign; Assembly Would Convene

LD2707142794 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Network in English 1300 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] A peace plan appears to have come up at the national unity shura of Afghanistan in Herat. The [word indistinct] of the shura conference and governor of Herat, Mr. Isma'il Khan, said today that President Borhanoddin Rabbani has expressed readiness to step down. He said the plan includes setting up a 65-member panel of [as heard] coordinate the peace process. Under the plan, the 23d October is the deadline to convene a national assembly of Afghanistan to elect a successor of President Rabbani. Mr. Isma'il Khan said the panel would also nominate an interim president before elections.

Hekmatyar Forces Shell Residential Areas of Kabul

LD2607160894 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] The Golboddin-Dostam militia struck at Kabul with rockets again today, causing loss of life. The Kabul garrison command gave the number of rockets fired by the Karmal-Golboddin-Dostam militia as 15, all of which landed in the residential areas of the city. Kabul hospitals gave the number of casualties in the rocket attack as [word indistinct] martyred and 13 others injured.

The mojahedin and forces of the Islamic Army have repulsed another attack by the Golboddin-Dostam militia in Baghlan Province. An Armed Forces source told a BAKHTAR military correspondent [words indistinct] launched an unsuccessful attack on the positions of [words indistinct] from the directions of (Payandara) and Kilagai. The Karmal-Golboddin-Dostam militia's failed attack was aborted at the outset of the clashes, and the militiamen were forced to retreat. The militia suffered heavy loss of life in the failed offensive and dozens of their men were killed or injured. In the course of their confident defense, the mojahedin and troops of the Islamic forces were able to destroy a tank belonging to the militia, one BM-12 rocket launcher, and three motor vehicles, and capture a quantity of their light and heavy weapons.

Militia Commander in Laghman Province Killed

LD2707155294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Mohammad Naser Mansur, a commander of the Golboddin Hekmatyar militia in Laghman, has been killed along with his deputy and 10 prominent associates.

BAKHTAR has just received reports that, after suffering heavy defeat in Kabul, Golboddin's militia mounted an attack on the positions of the mojahedin last night. As a result the commander of the Golboddin militia was killed. The report says that Naser Mansur's deputy (?Khan) and 10 other ringleaders were also killed in the fighting. The report names the area around the former prison of Laghman Province as the scene of the clash. The battle is still going on. A source of the Islamic Army of Afghanistan said that the Air Force raided the positions of the militia several times in support of the mojahedin.

Naser Mansur was a famous commander in Golboddin's militia in Laghman Province. Over a period of several years he not only clashed with various jihadi organizations but also was not on good terms with other commanders supporting Golboddin. One of the biggest clashes in which he was involved took place in the province two years ago, when he fought the mojahedin of Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami [Islamic Revolutionary Movement] under the command of Mullah Asadollah Haraki.

50 Killed in Clashes

BK2807092094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] According to reports, 50 persons have been killed in clashes between rival groups in Laghman Province of Afghanistan. Meanwhile, it is reported that President Borhanoddin Rabbani has appealed to the opposing groups to lay downs arms.

Mehmood Mestiri, UN special envoy on Afghanistan, will go to Afghanistan on 30 July where he will inspect the arrangements being made to reopen the UN offices there. According to PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL, it is possible that Mestiri will hold talks with the Afghan leaders in Jalalabad. He will also go to Tashkent next week where he will exchange views with the Uzbek leaders on the Afghanistan issue.

Bangladesh

Foreign Minister Urges Opposition To End Strike

BK2807075294 Hong Kong AFP in English 0640 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Dhaka, July 28 (AFP)—Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman has pleaded with Bangladesh's main opposition Awami league (AL) to cancel a planned weekend general strike because it coincided with a regional ministerial meeting.

Saturday is the scheduled start of the two-day foreign ministers' meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) which groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

AL chief Sheikh Hasina Wajed announced Wednesday that a half-day nationwide general strike would be held Saturday to protest Tuesday's killing of six people in a gunfight between students and fundamentalists in Chittagong, Bangladesh's second largest city.

Sources in Chittagong Medical College Hospital said Thursday another of the injured has died, pushing the toll from five to six.

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Dhaka University's Anti-Communal Students' Society has also called for general strike Sunday. Both Saturday and Sunday are normal working days in predominantly-Muslim Bangladesh.

Muhammad Nasim, an AL leader and opposition chief whip told AFP that it was unlikely the party would change its plans, but "we will discuss the issue later today."

Another AL leader suggested the ministerial schedule be altered since the strike calls for only a half-day stoppage.

The SAARC meeting is expected to announce a new summit date, once scheduled for this year, but now likely to be held next spring on host India's request, officials said. This will be the third time the summit schedule has been changed.

Wajed also announced plans to advance her campaign to unseat Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's government starting with countryside demonstrations August 27 and ending with a planned seige of the capital Dhaka on September 10.

The AL, the Jatiya Party of former president Hussain Muhammad Ershad and Golam Azam's fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami party are calling for elections under a non-partisan interim government.

The group alleges past by-elections have been rigged and claimed free and fair polls are impossible under Zia's government.

Zia's ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) denied the charges. It has an absolute majority in the 330-member parliament, having been elected under a non-partisan interim government in 1991. Elections are not scheduled before early 1996.

The BNP, which is opposed to the proposal, announced June 13 amid a continuing parliament boycott by the opposition, that it would introduce a bill to make elections "more effective." The opposition has shunned the proposal.

India

Ministers, Officers Plan Visits to Iran

BK2707135794 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 25 Jul 94 p 4

[Text] India and Iran are likely to move closer on matters concerning defence cooperation with Iranian Army Chief Shamkhani slated to visit New Delhi in September.

The Iranian leadership is keen to enhance cooperation with India not only in traditional areas such as political and economic, but also in defence.

A series of top-level visits are to take place from Tehran in the next few months, according to Minister of State for External Affairs R L Bhatia who recently returned from a visit to Iran, Turkey and Qatar. President Hashemi Rafsanjani will visit New Delhi later this year. The dates of his visit will be fixed through diplomatic channels.

Deputy Foreign Minister Zarif will visit New Delhi in September for consultations and political level discussions. Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati will be in Delhi for the Indo-Iranian Joint Commission meeting in December.

The defence cooperation would involve discussions and exchange of views between the two defence establishments, training of defence officers and repairs of ships and other equipment. These subjects would be discussed during the visit of the Iranian Army Chief, Mr Bhatia said.

Mr Bhatia called on President Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister Velayati when he was in Tehran for official discussions. Both sides expressed concern regarding the subject of human rights and the manner in which human rights issues were being taken up by the West.

They also discussed the situation in Tajikistan and Afghanistan and noted that it was vital to have peace in the area for the situation there affected the region as a whole.

The Iranian side said the situation in Tajikistan was difficult but talks were going on among the Tajik groups. But in Afghanistan, the different groups were not even willing to begin a dialogue.

Mr Bhatia said that the Iranian leadership was very keen on the gas pipeline proposal and was ready to consider both the underwater continental shelf route as well as the land route through Pakistan. India is the biggest potential buyer of gas in the region and there was will on both sides to pursue the proposal, he added .

Another project for cooperation between the two countries is the rail link from Bandar Abbas port to CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries as well as extension of the road connecting Iran to Bishek. There is a hilly tract in Iranian territory which had to be constructed. Both would be the best routes of access to the land-locked CIS countries.

In Turkey, Mr Bhatia called on the President Suleyman Demirel and the Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin and conveyed an invitation to the Turkish President to visit India. Mr Cetin emphasised the location of Turkey as a gateway between Asia and Europe and that Istanbul was becoming a major trading port in the region.

India has opened a consulate at Istanbul a couple of months ago. There was a good deal of interest in expanding trade and economic ties with India. It was agreed that a delegation of businessmen would visit the other country in order to identify the areas of economic cooperation, Mr Bhatia said.

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In Qatar, the Amir, Shaykh Khalifa Bin-Hamad Al Thani showed great interest in a gas pipeline and said his country would welcome any proposal from India for utilisation of gas.

The Amir also showed keen interest in the foreign investment climate in India, Mr Bhatia said.

'Conspiracy' To Close Karachi Consulate Alleged

BK2707093794 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 25 Jul 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Pakistan's Intentions"]

[Text] Even before they began there was no hope of any tangible outcome from the talks between Bhadrakumar, joint secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, and Pakistani Deputy High Commissioner Shahid Malik on the code of diplomatic conduct. The way in which Mohammad Afzal Bajwa, an employee of the Pakistani High Commission in India, was presented to Pakistani newspaper correspondents and shown on Pakistani television—wearing bandages and casts—clearly shows that this was a drama enacted by Pakistan to incite its people against the Indian High Commission and mislead international opinion. The spectacle of Indian diplomats' cars being stoned was an obvious consequence. This series of events involving physical assault against Indian diplomats in Pakistan, which began last year, appears to be a part of a well-planned Pakistani conspiracy. According to the Indian Government there have been 118 such incidents so far. Every time Pakistan flouts diplomatic conventions with impunity it blames India. It appears that Pakistan's rulers are intent on creating circumstances that will lead to the total cessation of dialogue between the two countries. But what can Pakistan gain by these tantrums? The statement made on television by the Pakistani high commissioner clearly hints at a conspiracy. He said that considering the treatment received by the Pakistani consul in Bombay, it would not be unethical or unjustified if Pakistan asked India to close its consulate in Karachi. According to him, India-Pakistan relations have reached the point that if one says it is night, the other is bound to say it is day. Even the Bombay dispute has been blown out of proportion by Pakistan. Pakistan wanted control of the Jinnah House there, which is opposite the Maharashtra Secretariat. For reasons of security and propriety, it would be wrong for Pakistan to have its consulate there. Pakistan insisted, however, that if its consulate was not in the Jinnah House it would be closed.

The real purpose behind this facade appears to be the closure of India's consulate in Karachi. Pakistan has long been pressuring the Indian Government to reduce the number of personnel in this office. Although the number of personnel was finally agreed upon, Pakistan still had objections. The main function of the Karachi consulate is to issue visas to Pakistanis who want to come to India to meet their kith and kin or for other legitimate purposes. Considering the large number of visa applicants, the number of personnel working in the office is appropriate. Pakistan's real problem is that a large number of Muhajirs and Sindhis want to go to India. Pakistan does not like this. A few days ago these visa hopefuls were even prevented from reaching the office. Pakistan fears that the large number of Sindhis travelling to India will lessen the impact of its anti-India propaganda, which accuses India of being anti-Muslim. Pakistani tourists, however, are unlikely to experience anything of the kind. Another worry is that these Muhajirs and Sindhis will provide an accurate version of the situation in Sindh Province, which will spread from India and become known to the entire world. Thus if the Indian Consulate in Karachi can be closed under some pretext the real conditions in Sindh will remain hidden from the world's view.

Pakistan's continuing atrocious behavior might ruin its diplomatic relations with India. The Pakistani leaders are hardly worried, though, because they have not yet drawn the attention of international diplomatic circles to their obduracy. They want to escalate tensions between the two countries to an explosive level in order to keep the attention of other countries riveted on the Kashmir issue and other similar problems.

Textile Minister Views GATT; Export Target Set

BK2707125894 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 24 Jul 94 p 12

[Text] The Textiles Ministry has set an export target of $9 billion for textile exports during the current financial year. This represents 12.8 per cent rise over the actual achievement during 1993-94.

Minister of State for Textiles G. Venkat Swamy, told mediapersons here on Saturday that the Ministry believed that exports would continue to maintain steady growth during 1994-95.

Swamy pointed out that exports during the previous year amounted to $7.97 billion, against a target of $7.4 billion. This achievement represented 20.8 percent increase over the 1992-93. The textile exports during the last three years had increased by 44.4 per cent from $ 5,525 billion in 1991-92 to $7.97 billion in 1993-94.

Referring to the signing of Final Act of Uruguay Round of GATT talks, he pointed out that the agreement on textiles and clothing formed a part of the Final Act. It signalled the end of Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA) era, in which discriminatory restraints were put by the developed countries on the export of textiles by developing countries such as India.

Swamy said that it was for the first time that the developed countries had committed themselves to phasing out of MFA within a definite time span, through international treaty. India with the help of a few countries had successfully thwarted the last-ditch efforts of some developed countries to increase the transition period from 10 years as proposed in the Dunkel Draft

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text, to 15 years. He claimed that, "India stands to gain significantly" as a result of this agreement.

Answering a question on the West's demand for opening of India's textiles market to imports, he said that the Government was holding negotiations with the US and European Union. It had not taken any decision on removal of any textile item from the negative list of imports or on changes in tariff protection.

Minister said that the recent steps taken by the Government to boost exports included revision of duty drawback rates for woven ready made garments, aggressive marketing of products in unexplored markets such as Brazil, Chile and South Africa and initiative to increase shipments to non-quota markets.

Meanwhile, the Government has decided to set up an inter-ministerial task force to formulate a strategy for increasing cotton production.

The Minister told the Parliament Consultative Committee of his Ministry Friday that the panel would include farm scientists and representatives of trade and industry.

Swamy said Government had decided to promote production of organically grown cotton and naturally grown cottons. Punjab and Rajasthan were working out special schemes in collaboration with Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) to take up seed production programmes. CCI had tied up with Coimbatore-based Dalmia Centre of Biotechnology for enhancing production of biopesticides and cotton spray for improving the quality of fibre.

Pointing out that the rise in cotton and cotton yarn prices had been arrested through a multi-pronged drive, he said the price of hank yarn used by handlooms in counts of up to 20s and counts of up to 30s had declined by 20 per cent and 12 per cent respectively since April 1994.

The Minister said the Textile Commissioner had filed 938 First Information Reports against mills for their failure to meet their obligations to supply hank yarn to handlooms as provided for under the Hank Yarn Obligation Order.

According to the agenda note for the meeting, Textiles Ministry has reservations over the Government's recent decision on export of cotton. It says in March 1994, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had approved the continuation of the existing export policy with the modification that the announcement regarding release of the initial 5 lakh bales may be done in the month of May itself when crop sowing takes place.

Iran

UN Representative Rejects Bombing Allegations

LD2807081594 Tehran IRNA in English 0621 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] United Nations, New York, July 28, IRNA—Iran's permanent representative to the U.N. Kamal Kharrazi Wednesday denied the unfounded allegations made by the Zionist regime against Iran on the recent bombing in Argentina. In a letter to the U.N. secretary general, Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Kharrazi also warned against Zionist adventurisms in the region and escalation of state terrorism in terms of air raids, kidnapping and political assassinations.

Kharrazi's note was in response to a letter sent by the Zionist regime's representative to Butrus-Ghali on Tuesday in which allegations were leveled against Iran on the bombing.

"The frantic reactions of various Israeli officials in blaming others including Iran, without a shred of evidence and before any investigation could even commence are quite suspicious," said Kharrazi in the letter adding that it may be a prelude to a dangerous Zionist adventurism in the region.

It further noted that as a target of international terrorism, the Islamic Republic of Iran has consistently denounced terrorism in all its forms including state terrorism and terrorist acts against innocent people regardless of their nationality or beliefs.

In connection with the recent bombing in Argentina, the letter said, the Iranian ambassador in Buenos Aires Hadi Suleymanpur has been in close contact with the Argentine Foreign Ministry officials and offered full cooperation and assistance in the investigations.

The letter said that contrary to the allegations made by the Zionists, "it is in fact the Zionist entity that considers terrorism an acceptable means to achieve its political ends."

"It is the Zionist entity that in addition to its regular air strikes against southern Lebanon has continually perpetrated innumerable acts of terrorism in the occupied territories which have been recorded in volumes of United Nations documents," it said.

Referring to the countless acts of terrorism committed by Tel Aviv in the region, it mentioned among them the transboundary kidnapping of Mustapha al-Dirani from his home in the village of Kasr Naba, Lebanon on 21 May 1994, bombing the Maronite church in Juniyah port, Lebanon in February 1994, transboundary attack and kidnapping of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd in 1989, transboundary attack and assassinations of Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi, his wife, son and six companions in February 1992, taking hold of and illegally detaining four Iranian nationals including the Iranian charge d'affaires and three companions who had been abducted in Lebanon in 1982.

"The renewed dangerous Israeli provocations, its frantic and hurried reactions to recent incidents of bombing and many other similar indications which illustrate the Zionist design aimed at preparing the state for its future

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aggression and expanded state terrorism are all too obvious to be ignored by the international community," said the letter.

Israeli 'Agents' Said Behind Bombings

LD2807133994 Tehran IRNA in English 1322 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—Founding their news reports on the basis of claims of the Israeli intelligence service (Mosad), the foreign mass media are attributing Wednesday's bomb blast at the Israeli Embassy in London to Islamic groups.

An expert in news related affairs says only one day after the bomb blast at the Israeli Embassy in London, Mosad began directing the course of the Western mass media against Islamic Iran under conditions that no investigations had yet been carried out regarding the blast. He says Mosad, one of whose functions is to divert the public opinion in compliance with the policies adopted by the Zionist regime, has not offered any reliable and documented evidence for its claim. It has now become a policy of the Israeli intelligence service to blame Iran for any explosion at Zionist centers, he adds.

Meanwhile, an anti-terrorist expert believes that the swift reaction of the Israeli authorities and the types of the blasts in Buenos Aires and London unveils the involvement of the Zionist regime's agents in the explosions. With little information on the type of the bombings one can conclude that they are not the work of guerrilla groups, he says. He also urged the anti-terrorist authorities in Argentina and Britain to provide the public with the real documents without paying any attentions to Israel's insinuations.

Diplomat Discusses Bombings With Israeli Radio

TA2807080494 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Passages in italics recorded and translated from Spanish]

[Text] In a special interview with IDF Radio this morning, Safar 'Ali Islamiyan, the charge d'affaires at the Iranian Embassy in Venezuela, said that Iran emphatically denounces the perpetrators of the attacks in Buenos Aires and London and denies any connection with them. Five Iranian diplomats, including the ambassador, were recently expelled from Venezuela after being charged with involvement in subversive activities on behalf of Hizballah. Our correspondent Netan'el Semrik reports:

[Semrik] The perpetrators of the recent terror attacks in London and Buenos Aires are inhuman. They are not human beings, and we emphatically denounce their actions. These surprising declarations were made this morning in a phone call from Caracas by Tehran's most senior representative in Venezuela. The speaker was aware of the fact that he was talking to IDF Radio in Israel. Islamiyan categorically rejected the charges leveled by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and other countries against Iran and its connection to recent terror attacks.

[Islamiyan] *Those people do not belong with humankind. They are by no means and in no way human beings.*

[Semrik] *Sir, do you know anything about the persons or the organizations that perpetrated the terror attacks in Buenos Aires and London?*

[Islamiyan] *No, we do not know anything....*

[Semrik, superimposed over end of recording] I do not know anything about the identity of the people who planted the bombs in London and Buenos Aires, Islamiyan said. We would like to point out that an exiled Iranian diplomat in Venezuela is currently cooperating with the Argentine authorities in the investigation of the bombing in Buenos Aires. Incidentally, that same diplomat predicted the series of bombings in London. The Iranian ambassador to Venezuela and four other diplomats were expelled over the past week following suspicions that they were involved in subversive activities on behalf of Iranian intelligence and Hizballah in Central America.

The expulsion was for political reasons that have nothing to do with the recent attacks, Islamiyan told us. Finally, we asked the Iranian diplomat to send a message to Israel's citizens. There was a long silence at the other end of the line and then came his diplomatic reply.

[Islamiyan] *We think that a dialogue between nations is the best way to settle problems.*

[Semrik] A mysterious hand interfered at the end of his reply and cut off the conversation. What he managed to tell us was that he is in favor of a genuine dialogue between all nations as a means of solving problems.

Source for Charges on Bombings Said Never Diplomat

LD2807082494 Tehran IRNA in English 0345 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—Following press reports that an Iranian in Venezuela claiming to be a former diplomat has leveled baseless charges against Iran in the recent terrorist bombing in buenos aires, the Iranian Foreign Ministry provided the Government of Argentina through its mission in Tehran with detailed information about the identity and background of Manuchehr Motamar and his family.

The note which was given to the Argentine charge d'affaires in Tehran Wednesday afternoon by director-general of the Foreign Ministry reveals that contrary to press reports, Motamar was never a diplomat or a civil servant but an ordinary civilian maintaining a small business in the city of Esfahan. He had been seeking

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various ways, according to his relatives, to immigrate to the United States, and apparently had not succeeded in obtaining a visa, the note added.

"Mr. Motamar has never been an employee of the Iranian Government in any capacity and has never worked for the Iranian Government. He is an ordinary Iranian citizen," the note revealed.

"The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, condemning all terrorist acts, expects that the government of Argentina would take all necessary steps, in view of friendly bilateral relations, in order to prevent dissemination of baseless fabrications and allegations based on erroneous information," it further stipulated.

The note added that according to the information attached, Manuchehr Motamar, 38, left Iran with his wife Zohreh Ezadi, 34, and their four children on 23 March 1994 through Bazargan border and entered Turkey. "Motamar had been in trouble with the law in the past. He was arrested in 1987 together with an accomplice for forging a military duty discharge certificate and was sentenced to one year probation. He was also arrested three times for fraud and jailed for 24 hours each time.

"Mr. Motamar lost his father in early childhood and was kept in an orphanage before he was adopted by Mr. Hoseyn Motamar. In 1991, he found his real brothers Hassan and Abolfazl Tahsiri, who are currently living in Esfahan, selling shoes and bags," the note said.

According to additional information provided by relatives of Manuchehr Motamar, he was leaving Iran to immigrate to the United States so that his children could continue their education in that country. "His last telephone conversation from Cuba was with his brother-in-law in which he complained about his financial situation. At about the same time, he asked the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Havana to assist him and his family to return to Iran," the note concluded.

Mosad Said Influencing Western Statesmen

LD2807093594 Tehran IRNA in English 0729 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—Mosad, the Israeli intelligence service, has deceived statesmen in Argentina and Britain through its unfounded and fabricated reports on bomb explosions in Buenos Aires and London and has dragged them behind into a pre-determined direction. Dr. 'Ali Musa, an Arab national residing in Europe who follows developments in the Middle East says that most of the accusations leveled by western statesmen, including Argentine President Carlos Menem, are being influenced by Mosad's claims.

According to him, Israel is in need of disturbing the principled and uncompromising stands of the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to overshadow opposition of Muslims with Israel-'Arafat accord and divert public opinion from the treason taking shape against Muslims.

In the past few months and due to the opposition of major Islamic groups with the compromise accord, Israel had been under the severe pressure of the public opinion in the Islamic world, Musa said.

Experts familiar with the propaganda policies of the Zionist regime are fully aware of the fact that whenever Tel Aviv is brought under severe political pressures it would resort to attempts such as explosions and assassinations in order to ease such pressures.

Meanwhile, Muslim diplomatic sources in Amman also believe that Israel needs ample justification in order to absorb foreign assistance, specially from the U.S., adding that the explosion could serve as a good justifiation on the part of the Zionist regime.

Foreign mass media have magnified allegations of the Zionist regime under such circumstances in which the Islamic Republic of Iran has explicitly condemned any terrorist act by announcing its official stands. The Islamic Republic of Iran has also voiced readiness to cooperate in investigations for identifying those involved in the bomb explosion.

However, Israeli mass media and Mosad, in the pursuance of their past policies, would ultimately attribute any terrorist act to the Islamic groups and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Israel Said Mobilizing 'Propaganda Campaign'

LD2807112494 Tehran IRNA in English 1028 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Paris, July 28, IRNA—The Zionist regime has instructed its embassies worldwide to mobilize the Jewish supporters of the Tel Aviv regime for accusing Iran of bombings in London and advised them to launch a propaganda campaign against Iran in this connection, said a French reporter.

The correspondent who spoke on the condition of anonymity said that a high-ranking French Jew who has close ties with the Zionist embassy in Paris in a telephone contact with him charged Iran with the bombings in Buenos Aires and London. The French Jew also admitted that the Zionist embassy has established contacts with influencial Jews in Paris, said the reporter. The Zionist embassies have instructed their Jewish agents not to miss the opportunity for exerting psychological pressure on Iran.

Meanwhile, in a television interview, leader of the Australian Zionist Federation in Sydney held Iran responsible for the bombings in Buenos Aires and London. The Federation leader who has close ties with the Zionist regime's ambassador in Canberra, Philipe Vilans, urged the Australian Government to limit its ties with Iran.

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In another development, one of the leaders of the Argentine Jewish Community, Robrin B. Riaja, after receiving the Zionist regime's instruction, in an interview with the NEW YORK TIMES said that there is strong possibility of Iran's involvement in the incident adding that they regard Iran responsible for the bombings.

However, Iran has categorically denied its involvement in London and Buenos Aires bombings.

Reported Contacts With Israel on Jerusalem Denied

NC2607170194 Paris AFP in English 1411 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, 26 Jul (AFP) - Iran denied Tuesday it had written to Israel about the future of Moslem shrines in Jerusalem, saying it would not communicate with a country it did not recognise.

The foreign ministry said Iran would "not allow anyone to interfere in the affairs of sacred Islamic places in Bayt al-Magdis (Jerusalem) because they belong to Moslems and the Islamic world is responsible for their fate."

"In fact, we do not extend any legitimacy to the occupying regime" of Israel and "will never communicate with it," it said in a statement obtained by AFP.

The statement said Iran "strongly denies the allegations broadcast by MBC," the London-based Arab television station.

An Israeli opposition leader said he was "aware that the Iranian authorities have addressed letters (to Israel) alluding to the rights of the holy Moslem sites at Jerusalem," MBC reported Monday [25 July].

Moshe Qatzav, leader of the right-wing Likud block in the Israeli parliament, said "Israeli authorities do not intend to reply to these letters, nor give any chance to the Iranians to intervene in the issue," MBC said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Jordan's King Husayn in Washington on Monday declared a formal end to their country's 46-year state of war and recognized a "special" Jordanian role in Jerusalem's Moslem holy sites.

The declaration sparked a row with the PLO, which plans to push for a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital in a later phase of its negotiations with Israel.

Rabin said that many lay claim to the Moslem holy sites in Jerusalem, but said Jordan was responsible for them.

Joint Statement Issued Following Demirel Visit

LD2707175294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] At the end of Turkish President Suleyman Demirel's visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, a joint press statement was issued by the two countries.

The statement reads that in two session of talks, the Islamic president of Iran and the Turkish president discussed bilateral ties and the strengthening of the two countries' relations. Taking into consideration the international events, the two presidents stressed the need to strengthen economic cooperation by the two countries and agreed to boost their cooperation in the fields of commerce, industry, railways, highways, shipping, energy, and communications.

The two countries' presidents stressed the importance of completing the railway that links Europe to Central Asia through their countries and once again confirmed the principle of free transit through each other's territory.

The two presidents expressed their satisfaction over the level of current cooperation in the field of maintenance of border security and reiterated their intention to strengthen such cooperation.

It was also pointed out that friendly relations and close cooperation between the two countries are aimed at establishing peace and security in the region and not aimed against any country.

The two sides, while stressing the importance of multilateral cooperation within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, stressed: Any settlement of the northern Iraq issue must be within the framework of unity and safeguarding of the territorial integrity of that country.

The presidents of the two countries expressed their deep regret over the blatant violation of international laws in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Republic of Azerbaijan and rejected the use of force for ethnic slaughter and territorial occupation.

'New Chapter' in Ties With Turkey Seen

LD2707204694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i, on Tuesday July 26th, received the Turkish president, Mr. Suleyman Demirel, and members of the high-ranking accompanying delegation. Speaking on the occasion, the leader of the Islamic revolution underlined the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran is serious about reinforcing the friendly and cordial ties with Turkey. The leader cited Islam as an important common factor for enhancing bilateral ties, especially in dealing with the problems of the Muslim world.

Being two powerful regional countries, Iran and Turkey have a significant role in strengthening the Muslim world and it is with reference to the same point that the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran reminded the fact that the Turkish Government has carried out valuable efforts in assisting the Muslim people of Bosnia- Herzegovina. The leader said: If other Islamic countries had followed the

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example of Iran and Turkey, vis-a-vis the Bosnian tragedy, the Muslim world would definitely have overcome the crisis.

Close ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey are not only to the benefit of the two countries' mutual interests but are a factor that will play a significant role in establishing peace, security, and economic prosperity in the Central Asian region and Caucasia. This point too was echoed during the leader's remarks made during the meeting with the Turkish president and Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed that, besides bilateral cooperation, the two countries can also have fruitful and constructive links within the framework of intra-Islamic countries' cooperation.

In response to the leader's call the Turkish president, Mr. Demirel, said that he had come to Tehran by comprehending the need for having another look at bilateral ties and with the intention of uplifting the ties to the level of regional and international cooperation. The Turkish president said he believes that being two Muslim and neighboring countries, Iran and Turkey should cooperate with each other in order to creat unity and fraternity in the Muslim world and fight the problems and overcome the sufferings of the Muslim nations.

Mr. Demirel, during the second round of his talks with Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, also pointed out the need for Iran and Turkey to have greater cooperation, reminding that the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, and the Organization of Islamic Conference, OIC, are considered as two appropriate arenas for the enhancement of Tehran-Ankara cooperation.

The positive outcome of the two rounds of talks between the presidents of Iran and Turkey speak of the fact that a new chapter has been opened in the future ties of the two countries and the two sides will do their utmost in implementing the agreements reached in political, economic, and security (?sectors). If this is achieved, in the next meeting between the two presidents, which will take place on the invitation of Mr. Demirel in Ankara, they can attend to other matters of mutual interest after having achieved satisfaction over the execution of the previously concluded agreements.

Delayed Petrochemical Project Reportedly Completed

OW2707135994 Tokyo KYODO in English 1341 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 27 KYODO—Iran has completed a petrochemical plant originally planned more than 20 years ago under a joint project with Japan, Japanese sources said Wednesday [27 July].

Iran's National Petrochemical Co. (NPC) will officially open the plant on Aug. 2 with President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and other government officials attending, they said.

The Iran-Japan petrochemical project was originally signed in 1971 by the Iranian Government and a group of Japanese companies, including big trading house Mitsui and Co. Aimed at strengthening ties with the oil-producing country, the Japanese Government also contributed funds for the project.

However, due to the Islamic Revolution in 1979 and the Iran-Iraq War that broke out in 1980, the project was scrapped in 1989, with Japan paying a penalty. NPC then took over the project, won technological assistance from German and Dutch companies, and finally completed the plant, the sources said.

According to Iranian news reports, the plant is expected to produce petrochemical products amounting to some 70 percent of the nation's total consumption.

Envoy Calls For Guarantees for Korean Investment

LD2807101894 Tehran IRNA in English 0901 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 28, (IRNA)—South Korean Ambassador to Tehran Sin Song-o in a meeting here Wednesday with Minister of Industries Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh discussed situation of Korean firms in Iran and called for guarantees regarding their investments.

Sin voiced his country's readiness to cooperate with Iran in food industries, textile and seramics and said South Korea was willing to use Iranian herbal medicine.

Referring to the expansion of non-oil exports as one of Iran's major objectives, Ne'matzadeh said his ministry which produced 70 percent of the total industrial goods in the country was ready to cooperate with Korea in such fields as foodstuffs, medicine and textile.

The industries minister further announced Iran's interest in joint venture with South Korea in the export and exchange of non-oil goods.

He added that the law for the protection of foreign investment in Iran provides for flexibilities which facilitates joint venture in Iran.

Chinese Ambassador Urges Broadening Ties

LD2707192694 Tehran IRNA in English 1826 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Tehran, Hua Liming, in his meeting with Iran's Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, here today called for further consolidation and broadening of Tehran-Beijing ties.

Liming said the exchange of visits between the officials of the two countries will help further strengthen mutual relations.

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Besharati in turn referred to the existing grounds for further improvement of the two countries' ties and said promotion of relations with China is on Iran's foreign policy agenda.

He also welcomed the idea of boosting mutual cultural, economic and diplomatic relations.

Iraq Relations Said Marred by Aid to Opposition

MM2607111494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Jul 94 p4

[Unattributed report: "Velayati's Visit to Iraq Postponed"]

[Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Official sources in Tehran yesterday confirmed that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's expected visit to Baghdad has been postponed indefinitely and that five Iraqi diplomats have been expelled from Iran. These moves came hours before Iran's complaint to the United Nations against alleged Iraqi violations of the 1988 cease-fire. Tehran says that a combination of Iranian groups in exile and Iraqi soldiers was responsible for a series of incidents, the latest being the killing of two Iranian border guards and the abduction of a third on 5 July. The expulsion of the Iraqi diplomats is seen as a virtual closure of the Iraqi Embassy in Tehran. It is not known yet if Iraq intends to take reciprocal steps in this connection.

According to our informed sources in Tehran, relations between the two neighbors suddenly deteriorated after Iraq's refusal to discontinue its aid to the Mojahedin-e Khalq, the Iranian guerrilla organization in exile, which uses Baghdad as its headquarters. In return for a discontinuation of such aid, Iran had offered to reduce its aid to Iraqi opposition parites. Iran had previously asked some of the Iraqi Shiite organizations to move their offices from Tehran to Damascus. Last May, the Iranian media spoke of a possible strategic alliance between Tehran and Baghdad to form a new bloc including Sanaa, Khartoum, and possibly Qatar against the United States and its allies in the region.

The Iraqi decision to continue to provide aid for Mojahedin-e Khalq was made "at the highest level in Baghdad," meaning President Saddam Husayn himself. Mojahedin-e Khalq says it has considerably improved its effectiveness as an opposition force and is now making preparations for major military operations inside the Iranian borders. The Mojahedin-e Khalq issue is also undermining Iran's relations with France. Iran yesterday protested against the French police's decision to allow Maryam Rajavi, wife of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Leader Mas'ud Rajavi, to attend an Iranian musical evening in Paris.

Mrs. Rajavi, who has political asylum in France, addressed 1,800 people who gathered to hear songs by Iranian singers living in exile since the Iranian revolution.

Nateq-Nuri Thanks Iranians in U.S. for Support

LD2707125294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] According to a report by our correspondent, at the beginning of today's open session of the Majles, Islamic Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri having welcomed the arrival of Arba'in and the 40th day after the martyrdom of the Mashhad martyrs, stressed: The terroristic measures by Monafeqin [hypocrites—reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] and their supporters will not create any hesitation in the firm resolve of the Iranian nation to continue the path that has been drawn by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni and is being continued by the honorable leader courageously.

Having expressed thanks to the Iranians living in the cities of Los Angeles and Washington who did not allow the hireling group of hypocrites to stage a march and demonstrations, the speaker of the Islamic Majles, added: They stood against this terroristic group, thanks to their national and religious zeal, and performed a valuable task. This is the manifestation of a fact that the hearts of those Iranians who live abroad are also with the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The head of the legislative branch also condemned the claims made by the false supporters of human rights and claimants of freedom and democracy in support of terrorists and added: Those people who themselves are the true violators of human rights cannot question us in this regard.

President Commemorates Beginning of Friday Prayers

LD2707201394 Tehran IRNA in English 2001 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told members of the Central Council of the Headquarters for Organizing Friday Prayers here Wednesday that the Friday prayers is an opportunity for safeguarding and strengthening Islamic values and is the source of goodness and prosperity.

The meeting with President Rafsanjani commemorated the first Friday congregational prayers after the revolution in Tehran led by Ayatollah Seyyed Mahmud Taleqani at the Tehran University campus.

President Rafsanjani said the sermons at the prayers increase the knowledge of worshippers, and are thus very important.

He appreciated the efforts made by people in charge of Friday congregational prayers throughout the country and said the project for building a large prayer hall in Tehran is very important.

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He hoped that once the said prayer hall was built the congregational prayers would be held at a better location.

A leading member of the visiting group presented a report to the president on the activities of the headquarters for Friday prayers since the first mass prayers in Tehran this day in 1979.

Velayati Urges IRNA-Foreign Ministry Link

LD2707141794 Tehran IRNA in English 1154 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Karaj, July 27, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Wednesday urged the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) to undertake a more active and serious function at the international publicity scene. Speaking to a gathering of IRNA's overseas bureau heads, Velayati said under conditions that Iran claims to have revived Islamic values and world Muslims have vested great hope in Iran, the slightest negligence on the part of IRNA would strike a heavy blow on the country.

Velayati also called on IRNA not to provide pretexts to those who intend to plot against Iran and tarnish its image. Emphasizing the need for a strong link between IRNA and the Foreign Ministry, Velayati said it would prevent the enemies propaganda assaults and help the Islamic system achieve its goals.

Describing IRNA as a 'major arm of Iran's open diplomacy', the foreign minister said IRNA should forge initiatives to counter the satanic plots against the country.

Draft Bill Banning Satellite TV Equipment Passed

LD2707182994 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] A draft bill on banning the use of satellite reception equipment, which was presented to the Islamic Consultative Assembly some time ago, was approved by the Majles Islamic Culture and Guidance Committee [ICGC].

Mr. Taqavi, the head of the Majles ICGC, in an interview with journalists today, elaborating on the particularities of the draft bill, said: The draft bill bans the import, production, distribution, and use of satellite reception equipment and charges the Interior Ministry with rounding up such equipment with the help of the Law Enforcement Force and the Basij Resistance Force.

He also said: The draft bill charges the Voice and Vision to record and rebroadcast those satellite programs that are not against the values and principles of the Islamic and national culture.

Mr. Taqavi added: The Majles ICGC has given the task of investigating and judging the offenses under the draft bill to Islamic Revolution Courts and stipulates penalties for offenders, according to the law.

The draft bill on banning the use of satellite reception equipment, adopted by the Majles ICGC, will be put on the Majles agenda for its first reading—similar to other draft bills and bills—according to the Majles internal regulations, after going through the regular stages. It will be debated in an open session.

Military Maneuvers Conducted on Mersad Anniversary

LD2707123894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Today coincides with the anniversary of the Mersad operations. Today is the anniversary of the epic created by the courageous warriors of Islam in the confrontation against the enemies and mercenaries of global blasphemy.

On the sixth anniversary of these operations, and to honor the memory of brave combatants of Islam—particularly the courageous warriors of the airborne division and honorable martyrs of these operations—a maneuver was held in the western regions of the country with the participation of the airborne division forces. Our correspondent reports:

[Unidentified correspondent] Airborne division pilots, commando units, and infantry forces took part in this maneuver. The forces of Islam, by launching courageous operations against a hypothetical enemy, ended the Mersad maneuver successfully. The operations included troop transfers into difficult terrains, transportation of arms and equipment, provision of air cover for the infantry units by the airborne division helicopters, and the bombardment of the hypothetical enemy's positions. [passage omitted]

Impact of Fall in Value of Dollar Viewed

NC2707194494 Tehran SAN'AT-E RUZ in Persian 22 Jun-22 Jul 94

[Unattributed commentary: "Fluctuations on the Foreign Exchange Market"]

[Text] In the past two months, the foreign exchange rates have registered increases and fluctuations. As usual, this situation forced the Central Bank to act and to issue circulars, rules, and instructions.

Without any proper awareness or coordination, the country's economic affairs officials, including the esteemed minister of economic affairs and finance, began airing their views in order to lessen the pressure resulting from the increase in the foreign exchange rates. Addressing the committee of the directors general for economic affairs and finance at Sari, he said: Very soon, the foreign exchange rate will reach 1,750 rials on the open market.

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A week after the esteemed minister of economic affairs and finance expressed his views, the Central Bank announced that for those who import "against their exports" foreign exchange will be provided at the rate of 2,588 rials. This resulted in increasing the unofficial rate to 2,588 rials.

There are many factors necessary for growth and development such as "accrual of foreign exchange earnings." Fortunately, our country has the capability to have a foreign exchange income of billions of dollars annually. However, correct management and expenditure are necessary prerequisites.

The end to the imposed war and the beginning of new changes in the country with the approval of the first 5-year social and economic development plan with concomitant changes in the hierarchy were the harbinger of improvement and thus, the difficult period of economic difficulties was behind us. The reconstruction of the devastation caused by the war—which cost billions of dollars—along with development and investment, which are the main pillars of society, also required billions of dollars; similarly, a reduction in the executive responsibilities of the government in the industrial units and other economic and social sectors that had been imposed on the government out of sheer necessity in the aftermath of the revolution—all these were the main departments of the government's plan within the framework of the policy of economic adjustment.

However, in an assessment of the 5-year plan, there were some very heartening changes, but due to the lack of forecasts for necessary projections for its implementation in accordance with the country's foreign exchange capability, a plethora of difficulties cropped up after the first four years of the plan had elapsed.

The implementation of the 5-year plan was initiated with the propaganda and defense of free trade and the economic experts and officials of the country (in the Central Bank and in the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance) daily touted new preliminaries based on the instruments of free trade and thus, the way was paved for better and increased imports. This was so despite the fact that the country had endured eight years of the imposed war and exorbitant expenditures that included billions of dollars from its foreign exchange reserves and the dollar was being sold at a multiplicity of rates varying between 600 to 1,200 rials within the banking system as well as on the free market. Even though the conditions were not very conducive, the implementation of the plan continued without many problems for the financial system.

One of the positive points of the policies envisaged was that in the period preceding the first 5-year plan, the country closed its doors to foreign-manufactured goods and imposed restrictions on them in order to provide patronage to indigenous products. The wholesale producers of consumer goods had lost a very lucrative market and had sustained increasing political and economic pressure. Therefore, they insisted on the implementation of the scheme for free trade (proposed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund).

Without paying any attention to the political problems or identifying the distinctive conditions prevailing in the country (perhaps deliberately), the World Bank economic officials advocated the adoption of the free trade policies as a solution to extricate the country from economic straits and pressures. This encouraged our economic experts to be influenced by this thinking in favor of free trade and imports in order to boost exports, and thus created conditions for an increase in the volume of imports.

Free Trade Zones:

Free trade and similar devices—like all other proposals for the Third World propounded by the Western governments—are one-way streets. As statistics have proved, transforming Kish island into a free trade zone resulted in its being inundated by substandard consumer goods and other miscellaneous manufactured products (worth 1.5 billion dollars in Kish alone) with immense speed and intensity. This was when, according to the officials, only $1 worth of goods were exported against every import of $6.

Meanwhile, an agreement was signed for the manufacture of various vehicles, produced and assembled in the country within the framework of the policy of the replacement of consumer goods. From among all the phases of this agreement, those sections were implemented the result of which was a surfeit of large double differential [preceding word in English] automobiles crowding the Tehran roads. (The reverse happens in other countries). This caused traffic jams and many other problems for the country.

In addition, cash purchases in foreign exchange, which are not conducted anywhere in the world, for airplanes, for refineries, for short term usance [preceding word in English] resulted in the country's dwindling foreign exchange reserves to a very low level. Countries that had not been able to defeat Iran and motivate it to relinquish its principled stance despite the war, economic embargoes, miscellaneous ploys, stepped up the pressure when the time came for payment of purchase costs and threatened to raise interest rates by five percent. They sharpened their teeth in order to extort more privileges to the extent that unfortunately foreign suppliers began to refrain from accepting orders from Iranian buyers and proclaimed Iran's indebtedness.

The Central Bank officials whose euphoria had evaporated (due to the non-fulfillment of the promises of assistance by the World Bank and some of the member governments) took hasty steps and began issuing a profusion of circulars and directives. In 1372 [year beginning 21 March 1993] alone, more than 340 such circulars, decrees, directives, clarifications, and corrigenda were issued.

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Meanwhile, the foreign exchange parity rates rose swiftly and unfortunately, the Central Bank—instead of implementing a mechanism for its control and reduction—acted as a foreign currency market. In any case, the year 1372 was a very difficult one and the hue and cry raised by various countries on Iran's indebtedness became more vociferous. However, the Central Bank officials did not make the slightest change and merely relied on the President.

Undoubtedly, in order to prevent the emergence of problems, and to seek a solution, we should mobilize the intelligence, expertise, dedication to the country's principles, and respect for the nation to unravel these problems. If our officials and policymakers of our country's foreign exchange system—which has become completely enmeshed in our political problems—had adopted this course of action, or at least taken the people into their confidence, matters would not have reached this stage.

At a nationwide seminar for coordination among the directors general held at Sari, in the first week of May this year, Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance Mohammad Khan said that our country has no problems regarding delinquent foreign debts, and on the contrary is able to respond to foreign exchange requests. Therefore, foreign exchange demands on the market will decrease shortly and the actual rate, that is, 1,750 rials, will be stabilized. The remarks by the minister of economic affairs and finance—who is himself one of the decisionmakers on parity rates—conveyed the impression that the problems are on the verge of being resolved and that the foreign exchange rates which appeared to be ever more frenetic, were coming under control.

Unfortunately, not more than two weeks had elapsed since the remarks by the minister for economic affairs and finance on the foreign exchange rate being stabilized at 1,750 rials when the Central Bank announced that foreign exchange would be allocated to importers at the rate of 2,588 rials to the dollar, which is in fact the unofficial rate. How is it that in less than two weeks, the remarks of the minister were flouted by the Central Bank in this manner? The answer to this question can only be provided by the minister and other officials, but the repercussions for the country's economy and their deleterious effects will continue to affect the consumers for which the only answer that seems forthcoming would be an apology.

Pakistan

Arrests of Ex-Military Said Selective Retribution

BK2707132894 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 27 Jul 94 p 6

[Text] The manner in which the cases against two former army personnel are being conducted gives rise to the suspicion that the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government has now decided to deal a body-blow to the image of our Defence Forces with the aim of eventually destroying the institution itself. It has been mentioned in connection with the prosecution of these officers that a former COAS [Chief of Army Staff] Retd. General Aslam Beg may also be included in the probe. This further demonstrates that the legal machinery of the state is being used to harass individuals who do not fit into the PPP scheme of things. Beg-bashing can be seen from the fact that in the Mehran Bank investigation, the scandal involves the misappropriation of around 4 billion rupees, yet the Commission has been given the authority to probe into only Rs 14 crore handled by the former General. The bulk of that vast sum was misappropriated by politicians on both sides of divide but that bulk has been exempted from investigation. That is another proof that the government is bent on maligning and weakening the armed forces of Pakistan. That impression is also gaining ground in the public at large.

Whether the charges against the chosen victims are true or false, the fact is that the acts allegedly committed by the two took place four years back when they were still in service. It implies that they were not on their own but the entire organisation was, directly or indirectly, involved in these operations. Obviously, during the course of investigation, many names will be named and the accusations will widen and deepen to an extent that an ordinary citizen will be compelled to conclude that our army is infected with corruption, intrigue and absence of ethical standards. We have no wish to condone the improper activities of any individual, however exalted or powerful he might be. But to pick one or two persons for deeds which are the collective responsibility of an entire department, is scapegoatism. That kind of selective retribution violates the basic principles of justice and defeats the aims of fair play and even-handedness.

The next question relates to the motives of the authorities in preferring charges against the former officers of ISI [Inter Services Intelligence]. Revenge appears to be the main motive in this situation. Elements in PPP harbour long-standing and deep- rooted grudges against ISI because in their perception the Army Intelligence and not their own incompetence was responsible for the downfall of PPP government in 1990. Now that they are in power, they cannot resist the temptation of settling old scores. Though this exercise is motivated by malice, revenge and hatred, yet the leadership of the PPP does not realise that they are attacking and damaging a vital national institution. These arrests and prospective trials will create both resentment and anxiety among the retired and serving officers of the armed forces with predictable results on the morale, efficiency and emotional unity of the Defence Establishment at a time when India is pounding the drums of war with deafening intensity. Many officers who may not approve of the style and substance of the activities of the two retired officers, do feel upset about the manner in which these are being hounded in the full glare of media spotlight. If

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the government was really interested in moral cleansing, it would not dig up the past but would, after consulting the armed forces, constitute a commission to find out how and why a department acted the way it did, also suggesting guidelines for future policies so that what happened in the past does not happen again.

The present vindictive policies of the Benazir administration may please the hardline activists in her own Party but in the long run such measures are bound to create a rift between the Army and the civilian authorities, which is not in the interest of anybody except those who wish to destroy Pakistan.

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